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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY

KOREA

SECTION 59

BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY PERSONALITIES

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CHAPTER V

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*This Section was prepared for the NIS by the
Intelligence Organization, Department of State.*

59. *Biographies of Key Personalities*

A. General

1. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

When the Soviet occupation forces invaded the Korean peninsula north of the 38th parallel during the latter half of 1945 they laid the foundation for a full-fledged Soviet satellite. By mid-1946, the Soviets had organized a north Korean government—the "Interim People's Committee"—and a Communist Party organization under the name North Korea Labor Party. The north Korean regime emerged as a formal "Democratic People's Republic" and communist satellite state in the latter part of 1948 under the name of the "Democratic People's Republic of Korea" (D.P.R.O.K.). Kim Il-sŏng, chairman of the "Interim People's Committee," became leader of the cabinet of the new regime. Many of the other leaders of the interim north Korean regime assumed posts in the government and in its key political and cultural organizations.

In August 1949, the North Korea Labor Party and its southern counterpart, the South Korea Labor Party, amalgamated to form the Korean Labor Party, which is the Communist Party organization and the dominant political party in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. North Korean officials, in order to present a democratic façade for the regime, have permitted the existence up to the present time of a few minor political parties, although the regime's propaganda organs have at all times stressed the superior position of the Korea Labor Party.

This Section contains biographies of some of the more influential governmental and political leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Based upon their backgrounds, most of the top leaders of the north Korean regime fall into one of three major categories. The most important group is composed of the Soviet-Koreans, U.S.S.R. citizens and members of local Communist Parties in the Soviet Union (a few had even held governmental or party posts in Moscow) who entered north Korea with the Soviet occupation forces in 1945. These Soviet-Koreans, all experienced politicians, were selected from Korean communities in the Soviet Union and placed in positions of power in the north Korean regime in order to insure Korean leadership which would be completely loyal to the U.S.S.R. and thoroughly trained in Soviet

political tactics. They were infiltrated into the top levels of the North Korea Labor Party and government, and upon the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September 1948 most of the cabinet vice ministerships were assigned to them. Other major governmental offices and agencies correspondingly had a Soviet-Korean vice chairman who unobtrusively exercised authority over the titular head of the organization. Certain major posts of influence in the Korea Labor Party are likewise held by Soviet-Koreans.

In many instances spurious biographies for Soviet-Koreans, which were prepared by the official propaganda agencies of the north Korean regime, listed their birth places as obscure regions in north Korea and otherwise falsified their life histories. Long absences from Korea prior to the Japanese surrender in 1945 were vaguely accounted for by such phrases as "imprisonment by the Japanese," "underground communist activities," or "studied abroad" (in Manchuria or elsewhere). As a result of this device, Soviet-Korean vice ministers and other governmental and political officials emerged as "genuine, native-born Koreans." Ho Ka'i, Nam Il, Kim P'a, Kim Il, Pang Hakse, and Madame Pak Chŏngae are representative members of this powerful group of north Korean leaders.

Closely allied with the Soviet-Koreans are the so-called Kim Il-sŏng guerrillas, who serve as a "front" for them. Kim Il-sŏng and his fellow-partisans were trained by the Soviets and fought during World War II in special brigades organized by Soviet military officials. They, like the Soviet-Koreans, entered north Korea with the Soviet occupation forces in 1945, and are favored Soviet contacts and trusted by the Russians only slightly less than the Soviet-Koreans, with whom they work quite closely. Some members of this group, notably Kim Il-sŏng and Choe Yŏnggŭn, occupy high titular positions in the government.

A second category of leaders consists of the so-called Yenan group of Korean communists, and includes such prominent figures as Kim Tubong, Kim Muchŏng, Pak Ilu, and Madame Hŏ Chŏngsuk. These Koreans either were trained by and/or fought with the Chinese communists during the 1930's and the first half of the 1940's. They returned to Korea during the latter part of 1945 from the communist areas of north China and played secondary roles in the establishment of the north

Korean interim regime during 1946 and 1947. Some members of this group, like Kim Muchŏng, have steadily lost prestige and influence. Others, like Kim Tubong, Pak Ilu, and Madame Hŏ Chŏngsuk, still retain high titular posts in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but possess little policy-forming authority.

A third category, known loosely as the "domestic" group, is composed primarily of former leaders of the South Korea Labor Party. Many of these were influential in the Korean revolutionary movement against the Japanese during the 1930's and World War II. They returned to south Korea after the surrender in 1945 and played prominent roles in the south Korean leftist movement prior to 1948. Pak Hŏngyŏng is the outstanding representative of the "domestic" group. Other prominent members include Hong Myŏnghui, Kim Wŏnbong (Kim Yaksan), Yi Yŏng, Kwŏn Ochik, and Paek Namun. Although currently some held high titular posts in the north Korean regime they, with the exception of Pak Hŏngyŏng, possess little real authority and represent, like the members of the so-called Yenan group, the second-level of leadership in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Anticommunist political leaders in north Korea, such as Cho Mansik and Yi Yunyŏng, both prominent in the Chosŏn Democratic Party (most prominent noncommunist political party in north Korea following the surrender) prior to January 1946, either were imprisoned by the communists or forced to flee to south Korea. Those "noncommunist" political leaders who head the few minor political parties still permitted to exist have been completely regimented by the communists and have degenerated into mere opportunists and fellow-travelers who follow the "party line" unswervingly.

2. Republic of Korea (South Korea)

From the time of its organization in the summer of 1948 until the present, the government of the Republic of Korea has been largely dominated by President Syngman Rhee, and since 1949, the political leadership in the state has been divided into pro- and anti-Rhee conservative groups. The former has been personally dominated by Rhee, through his governmental prerogatives and his forceful political leadership. It has an aura of "court politics," and includes many of the president's personal associates as well as governmental officials and leaders of diverse conservative political and social organizations. The anti-Rhee group, which has centered in the Democratic Nationalist Party, gained predominance in the National Assembly in 1951. During 1951 and early 1952 it carried on a spirited struggle with Rhee preliminary to the presidential election scheduled for the summer of 1952.

Effective left-wing or middle-of-the-road political leadership in south Korea ceased to exist after 1948. Since that year, south Korean communists and some south Korean centrist leaders have become identified with the communist regime in the north (see Subsection B, Biographies—Democratic People's Republic of Korea, below). The other middle-of-the-road leaders lost influence after 1948, and many remained in Seoul (Sŏul) and were taken by the communists during their occupation of that city in 1950.

For a time after 1945, the role played by the individual during the period of Japanese domination (1910-1945) served as a basis for categorizing the leadership into the following groups: collaborators with the Japanese; expatriates active in Nationalist China; expatriates active in the United States; and workers in the independence movement within Korea. The first group appears to have lost much of its force, as the stigma attached to all but the principal collaborators has declined. The expatriates who had resided in China and the United States tended to align themselves, despite some conflict in ideologies, against the indigenous leaders. Currently, these divisions have been superseded generally by intermingling and the accentuation of the pro-Rhee and anti-Rhee categories. However, the exact role of the individual leader under Japanese rule or in the independence movement remains of considerable importance. Partly for this reason, as well as for Confucian traditions, the leaders of the Republic of Korea are generally of late middle-age or elderly.

The Cabinet of the Republic of Korea and other executive personnel have been affected by the polarization of the leadership into pro- and anti-Rhee categories. In the beginning of his administration, President Rhee in many cases appointed his political followers and personal cronies to cabinet and key administrative posts in the Republic with little regard for their qualifications and general fitness, or the sensibilities of the more scrupulous members of the National Assembly and the government. At the same time, however, he often appointed members of the opposition to posts to broaden his support. In time of crisis, however, he has tended to dismiss the opposition and to appoint men loyal to him who often carry out his policies ruthlessly.

There are some exceptions to the President's political influence over appointments. Some very capable men have served in Rhee's cabinets and performed their duties with distinction and with only minor regard for politics.

The biographies of a representative sample of Republic of Korea officials and political leaders are included in this Section.

B. Biographies

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)

CH'OE Yönggün

Minister of National Defense Ch'oe Yönggün has had close associations with both the Soviets and Chinese Communists prior to the surrender of Japan in 1945. As an influential member of the Soviet-trained faction of Korean Communists and a fellow partisan of Kim Ilšöng, he became a prominent military and political figure in the North Korean regime and was placed at the head of the political police of the North Korean Interim "People's Government." When the North Korean "People's Army" was formed in 1947, Ch'oe was appointed commander in chief, and when the "People's Republic" was created the following year he became Minister of National Defense. Despite recent recurrent rumors that he had been purged or even shot, Ch'oe delivered a speech in P'yöng-yang in February 1952, in his official capacity as National Defense Minister, on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the creation of the North Korean "People's Army." He apparently is still an influential member of the Soviet-trained (or Kim Ilšöng) faction of North Korean military and political leaders, and his temporary eclipse in public pronouncements was probably due to the exigencies of the Korean hostilities.

Born about 1900 in north P'yöngan Province, Ch'oe attended elementary and middle school in Korea, graduated from Yunnan Military Academy in China, and taught for a time at Whampo Military Academy near Canton. During the 1930's he made an outstanding reputation as an officer in the Chinese Communist 8th Route Army and the Korean Volunteer Corps, organized by the Korean Provisional Government in 1938 and later taken over by the Communists at Yen-an (Fu-shih). After fighting against the Japanese with the Soviet-organized and -directed Special Independent Brigade in the early 1940's, Ch'oe returned to Korea at the end of World War II. Soon after his return he joined the *Chosön* Democratic Party, organized in North Korea in November 1945 by the prominent north Korean rightist leader Cho Mansik. When Cho Mansik was removed from the party chairmanship early in 1946 for his refusal to give public approval to the Soviet-backed trusteeship plan for Korea, Ch'oe took over the leadership of the party, which was then reorganized, renamed, and converted into a communist front organization. In 1947 he was appointed vice chairman of the presidium of the North Korean Interim "People's Assembly," highest organ of state authority, and became National Defense Minister the following year.

Upon the outbreak of the Korean conflict in June 1950, Ch'oe relinquished command of the North Korean "People's Army" to Kim Ilšöng who took direct control of the war effort, and Ch'oe apparently for a time assumed the purely administrative functions of his ministerial post. However, recent reports indicate that he has been directing the training of a reorganized army in Manchuria.

Ch'oe has been described as a man of mediocre ability and character whose high position in the regime is due primarily to his intrepidity as a fighter and his close connections with the powerful Kim Ilšöng faction. His wife is said to have been a former guerrilla fighter in China. They have several children, and Ch'oe is reported to have a grown son by a former wife.

CHÖNG Ch'unt'aek

Chöng Ch'unt'aek, chairman of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.O.K.) State Planning Committee, member of the Central Committee of the Korean Labor Party and the powerful "Military Committee" of the state, is a leader of the so-called "Domestic" faction of Korean communists (i.e., Koreans with no close past connections with Soviets or Chinese Communists). He is considered one of the industrial experts of the "People's Republic," and is nominally responsible for economic planning and industrial development. Although it is reported that Chöng was not active in communist operations prior to World War II, he was said to be a favored and confidential adviser to Kim Ilšöng and, after 1945, to have assumed an important place in North Korean communist circles.

Communist sources report that Chöng was born January 21, 1911, in Kyönggi-do, and graduated from Kyönggi Provincial Technical College and from the Mining Department of Seoul Higher Technological School. He is also reported to have studied for a time at the preparatory school of Jikeikai Medical College, Tokyo. According to additional reports from communist sources, he was employed as a mining engineer in Korea and Manchuria from 1936 until 1945.

Following the surrender of Japan in 1945, he was appointed head of the Bureau of Industry of the north Korean People's Committee, and in February 1947 became chairman, Bureau of Planning, Interim People's Committee. Upon the creation of the D.P.R.O.K. in 1948, he continued in office as chief of the State Planning Committee. Chöng was a member of the Standing and Central Committees of the North Korean Labor Party at the time of its reorganization in 1949 as the Korean Labor Party, and is currently a member of the Central Committee of the latter organization.

CHU Yŏngha

Chu Yŏngha, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, formerly held high official positions in the North Korean Labor Party and served from 1949 to 1951 as D.P.R.O.K. ambassador to the U.S.S.R. Although available information does not conclusively disclose that he is Soviet-Korean, reports indicate that at some period prior to the surrender of Japan in 1945, Chu came under Soviet influence. A member of the top leadership of the North Korean Labor Party between 1946 and 1948, and Minister of Transportation prior to his assignment to Moscow in January 1949, Chu's prominence in state and party affairs has apparently declined since the latter year.

Born about 1911, Chu is reported to have worked as a factory laborer and engaged in communist underground activities in northern Korea during the 1930's. As a result of these activities, he is said to have spent several years in prison following his arrest by the Japanese police. At some time prior to or during World War II, Chu apparently was in the Soviet Union. After the end of the war, it is reported that he returned to Korea, and became a prominent Korean Communist Party official in Hamgyŏng-namdo, northern Korea, and chairman of the provincial People's Committee. In 1946 Chu was appointed chief of the Administrative Department of the North Korean Interim People's Committee, and the following year became second vice chairman of the Central Committee of the North Korean Labor Party and a member of the party's Standing and Political Committees. When the North Korean Labor Party was reorganized in 1949, Chu is reported to have been assigned membership on both the Central and Political Committees of the Korean Labor Party, but was removed from the party's vice chairmanship.

After the D.P.R.O.K. was established in September 1948 he served for several months as Minister of Transportation prior to his assignment as Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. in January 1949. Chu remained at Moscow until about June 1951, at which time official pronouncements were still referring to him as the envoy to the U.S.S.R. On February 1, 1952, a TASS dispatch announced the arrival in Moscow of Yim Hae as D.P.R.O.K. ambassador; no mention was made of Chu in the Soviet press at the time.

HŎ Chŏngsuk

Minister of Culture and Propaganda and member of the Korean Labor Party Central Committee, Madame HŎ Chŏngsuk is the official spokesman of the administration. Next to Madame Pak Chŏnggae, she is probably the most influential woman leader in north Korea. The daughter of the late HŎ Hŏn, prominent leftist revolutionary and for-

mer chairman of the South Korean Labor Party and the Supreme People's Assembly, Madame HŎ is the former wife of Ch'oe Ch'angik, Finance Minister and Korean Labor Party official. She is prominent in the Yen-an faction of Korean Communist leaders. She has been an active Communist and anti-Japanese resistance leader since her teens, and has been imprisoned by the Japanese for involvement in underground activities and other subversive movements against Japanese rule. From the middle 1930's until the Japanese surrender in 1945, she was in China where she served as a staff member of the Communist Military-Political School at Yen-an. In northern Korea since 1945, Madame HŎ has served as vice chief of the Propaganda Department of the Korean Communist Party (merged into the North Korean Labor Party (NKLP) in 1946) and Chief of the Propaganda Bureau of the Interim People's Committee, chief executive and administrative organ prior to the establishment of the D.P.R.O.K. in 1948. Since 1948, she has been Minister of Culture and Propaganda, member of the North Korean Labor Party Central Committee, and a top official of the Korean Democratic Women's League. Like Madame Pak Chŏnggae, she has travelled extensively in recent years as leader of various North Korean delegations to communist conventions.

Born in southern Korea in 1908, Madame HŎ was graduated from Ewha Girls' Middle School in Seoul and from the Department of Literature of Kwansai Gakuin University in Japan, both Protestant mission institutions. She is reported by communist sources to have studied in the United States during 1926. Prior to her reported visit to the United States, she is said to have joined the Korean Communist Party and been appointed head of the party's women's department; during this period she worked as a correspondent on the *Tong-A Ilbo*, prominent Seoul newspaper. From approximately 1927 until her arrival in China in the middle 1930's, she is said to have been active in Korea as a communist underground worker, and is reported to have spent three years in the West Gate Prison, Seoul, as a result of communist activities.

Madame HŎ, who is described as "beautiful," is said to have had six husbands, the last one being a Russian officer. She is reported to have travelled extensively prior to World War II, and to be well-informed on international matters.

HO Ka'i

Formerly Secretary General of the Korean Labor Party, Ho Ka'i was reputed to be the dominant figure in the party directorate in 1949. On November 3, 1951, the P'yŏngyang radio announced that Ho had been appointed Vice Premier of the North Korean cabinet. A citizen of the U.S.S.R.,

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he is one of the most powerful men in the regime and is reported to be the key liaison figure between the Soviet authorities in Korea and North Korean party and state officials. A leader of the comparatively small but influential corps of Soviet-Koreans brought into north Korea by the Russians after the Japanese surrender, his behind-the-scenes influence is said to be enormous.

Born about 1904 in a Korean colony in Asiatic Russia, Ho was educated after the revolution in Soviet technical and political schools. Reported to be a former member of the Central Committee of a U.S.S.R. Central Asian Republic and an official of the local Communist Party, he came into north Korea with the Soviet Army at the close of World War II. Ho was a key figure in the organization of the North Korean Labor Party, and by 1948 held the important posts of chief of the party's Organization Bureau and vice chairman of the party's Central Committee. When the North and South Korean Labor Parties were combined in 1949 to form the Korean Labor Party, Ho, as party secretary general and member of the Central, Political, and Organization Committees, was reputed to be the most influential party official in the state.

Dormant tuberculosis in both lungs occasionally becomes active and forces Ho to take periods of rest. His second wife, whom he is said to have married in 1949, was apparently a kindergarten teacher in a school for children of U.S.S.R. citizens in north Korea and is also tubercular. She, like Ho, is reported to have been born in Russia, is a citizen of the U.S.S.R., a member of the local Communist Party in her native area. Both Ho and his wife speak good Korean, although Russian is said to be the customary language of the Ho household.

HONG Myŏnghui

Hong Myŏnghui, one of three vice-premiers of the D.P.R.O.K., is regarded in Korea as a scholar well-versed in the Chinese classics, Korean history and literature, and Marxist political and economic theories. Connected with the Korean independence movement during the 1920's and 1930's and active in literary and scholarly circles in southern Korea at the time of the surrender of Japan, he was regarded by his associates as a careful, discerning thinker and a man of prudence and integrity. Hong did not play a major role in Korean politics prior to 1946, but between that year and April 1948 was prominent as a party leader in south Korea. Although regarded as a moderate leftist in his views, he maintained regular contacts with leaders of both the right and left during this period. His subsequent defection to North Korea following the break-up of the second North-South Joint Conference of Political Leaders in June 1948 lends some credence to the theory that he was in

fact a secret communist during the occupation period in south Korea, and that he played along with the moderate groups in order to swing them into the communist camp when the time came. His appointment as a D.P.R.O.K. vice premier is said to have been made primarily to attract south Korean support, for he is reported to serve in a purely formal capacity, with little actual authority or responsibility. Hong's elder daughter, Hong Yŏngsŏk, married D.P.R.O.K. Premier Kim Il-sŏng in January 1950.

Born May 23, 1888, in Koesan-gun, Ch'ung-ch'ŏng-pukto, Hong was the eldest son of a family belonging to the petty nobility. His father, while headman of Koesan-gun, committed suicide in 1905 in protest against signing of the Japanese-Korean treaty. Largely self-taught with no formal college education, Hong is reported to have received his secondary education at Taisei Middle School, Tokyo, beginning in 1907. For short periods during the 1920's he served respectively as managing editor of *Tong-A Ilbo* (Oriental Daily News) in Seoul, principal of a boys' school in Pyŏngan-pukto, Instructor in Philosophy at Chosŏn Christian College, Seoul, and editor of *Sidae Daily News*, Seoul. During the 1920's he is reported to have joined Pak Hŏnyŏng's faction of the Korean Communist Party for a short period. After serving several years in prison at the beginning of the 1930's for leading an anti-Japanese movement in Chŏlla-namdo, Hong gained prominence as the author of the *Story of Im Kochong*, an historical novel centering on the exploits of a mythical Korean bandit during the Korya dynasty (918-1392 A.D.). The work appeared serially in the newspaper, *Chosŏn Ilbo*, throughout the 1930's and early 1940's, and was later published in a ten-volume edition. During World War II Hong is reported to have lived in a village near Seoul.

In December 1946 Hong organized the Democratic Unification Party, which represented an attempt to merge all south Korean middle-of-the-road organizations, and which in 1947 was reorganized to form the Democratic Independence Party. During this period he was active also in cultural organizations, serving as chairman of the Korean Literary League, Korean Cultural Association, and Soviet-Korean Cultural Society. He declined appointment to the Korean Interim Legislative Assembly (KILA) on ground that he would have nothing to do with the south Korean administration until unification of north and south could be achieved. After participating prominently during 1947 and early 1948 in Kim Kyusik's National Independence Federation, a coalition of moderate and moderate leftist groups, as a member of the Political Committee, he was able to persuade his colleagues, over the protestations of Kim, to at-

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tend the first North-South Joint Conference in April 1948 even before the North Koreans had revealed what was to be on the agenda of the meeting. It is reported that Hong took a predominant role in formulating Federation policies, and that his influence at times exceeded even that of Kim Kyusik. Hong remained in P'yŏngyang following the termination of the Conferences, and when the D.P.R.O.K. was established a few months later was appointed to his current post as a vice premier in the "People's Republic".

KANG Yanguk

Secretary General of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the North Korean Democratic Christian League, Kang Yanguk became politically prominent in north Korea following the rise of Kim Il-sŏng after October 1945. Brother-in-law of Kim's father and reported to have taught Kim as a youth, Kang is a procommunist Christian minister whose leadership of the Democratic Christian League enabled the communists to gain organizational control over the Christian community in north Korea after 1946. After the surrender in Japan, he joined the *Chosŏn* Democratic Party in December 1945. When Cho Mansik was removed as leader of the party early the following year, Choe Yŏnggŭn and Kang were appointed chairman and vice chairman respectively of the reorganized and renamed party. As a high official of the state and the North Korean Democratic Party (the former *Chosŏn* Democratic Party), leader of the Democratic Christian League, and a member of Kim Il-sŏng's household, Kang is influential in top D.P.R.O.K. political and cultural circles.

Born about 1894 in P'yŏngan-namdo, Kang is a graduate of Chuo University, Tokyo, and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in P'yŏngyang. Communist sources claim that he was imprisoned by the Japanese while a student at Chuo University for leading an anti-Japanese revolt among the Korean students enrolled at the school. Prior to and during World War II, Kang taught school and was pastor of a Christian church in north Korea. He was an unknown and politically obscure figure prior to the Japanese surrender and the arrival of Kim Il-sŏng upon the North Korean political scene.

Perhaps Kang's most significant accomplishment was his organization of the Democratic Christian League in November 1946 and his subsequent leadership of the league. Under the domination of Kang, the league became a powerful member organization of the Democratic People's Front, top cultural organ of the North Korean government, and a potent propaganda agency of the regime. Currently the league, purporting to represent the sentiments of the Christian community in north

Korea, has given vigorous support to the propaganda warfare campaign now being carried on by the communists, and has loudly denounced the alleged employment of bacteriological weapons by the American "imperialist aggressors" in Korea and China.

KIM Ch'onhae

A Korean member of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Japan Communist Party (*Kyosanto*), Kim Ch'onhae (Japanese name: Kin Ten Kai) has been prominently engaged in leftist activities in Japan for nearly three decades. After having participated in the Korean independence movement as a youth, he went to Japan about 1920 to work and study. During the following 30 years, Kim was active in organizing and directing the communist movement in Japan, and spent more than 15 years in various Japanese prisons as a result of his activities. During his last imprisonment, which lasted approximately from 1936 until General MacArthur's political amnesty of October 1945, he is reported to have actively directed the communist underground movement from his prison cell.

Following his release, Kim rose rapidly in the *Kyosanto* leadership hierarchy. At the Fourth National Congress of the party in December 1945, he was appointed to the Central Committee and assigned the chairmanship of the party's Korean department, and at the Fifth National Congress 14 months later Kim was elevated to the Political Bureau. Meanwhile, he was an influential behind-the-scenes leader of the League of Korean Residents in Japan (*Choren*), the most prominent leftist organization of Koreans in that country until its dissolution in September 1949, and was said to have been the one most responsible for bringing it into the communist fold. When the top leadership of *Kyosanto* was purged and driven underground by the American occupation officials and the Japanese Government in 1949, Kim Ch'onhae is reported to have ultimately made his way to north Korea after he allegedly escaped from a Yokohama hospital while under police surveillance in June 1950. The P'yŏngyang radio announced on November 10, 1951 that Kim had been appointed "Director of the Social Affairs Department" of the Korean Labor Party's (KLP) Central Committee. In the light of these developments, it is quite possible that Kim has resumed party activities as a top-level KLP official in north Korea.

Born about 1896 in Kyŏngsang-namdo, Kim left Korea for Japan when approximately 24 years old. During the 1920's he studied for several years at Nippon University, Tokyo, and was active in the leftist movements of that period. He participated in the formation of the Korean Labor League of Japan, a leftist organization of Korean workers in

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Japan, and took the lead in organizing a Japan branch of the Korean Labor Party. After 1929, he was frequently in prison, where it is said he continued to direct actively the leftist underground movement. It is reported that Kim met Tokuda Kyuichi, Secretary General of *Kyosanto*, while both were imprisoned, and the two communists became close friends and fellow leaders in underground activities. This friendship is said to have persisted upon the release of the two in 1945, and Kim is reported to be an ardent adherent of the Tokuda faction at *Kyosanto* headquarters.

Kim's overt activities ended when the Japanese Government purged the *Kyosanto* Central Committee and dissolved *Choren* in 1949, but he is reported since that year to have been very active in underground work for the party. He is rumored to have arrived in Korea shortly before the outbreak of the Korean conflict in June 1950, and to have made a propaganda broadcast from P'yongyang in February 1951. It is reported that he returned to Japan early in 1951, where he engaged in communist underground work in the Nagasaki-ken area.

Kim Ch'onhae is not only the most prominent Korean in the ranks of *Kyosanto*, but also has apparently made recent top-level, official connections with the Korean Labor Party. He is an experienced propagandist, was editor and publisher of a communist Korean language paper in Japan, and a contributor to *Zen-ei*, a *Kyosanto* medium published monthly.

Kim is described as a very imposing figure; over six feet tall, well-dressed and distinguished in appearance. He is said to possess a fine personality, and to be an eloquent speaker. He is in poor health, a victim of tuberculosis, possibly as a result of the many years he spent in prison. His mistress is reputed to be Kim Onch'on (Japanese name: Kim On Jun), a leading Korean woman leftist living in southern Japan, who, since the middle of 1947, has been head of the Korean Democratic Women's League in Japan (*Josei Domei*).

KIM II

Kim II, influential Soviet-Korean military figure in the North Korean regime, is vice minister of National Defense in charge of Cultural Affairs, and deputy director of the Political Bureau of the north Korean "People's Army." Born in Asiatic Russia about 1904 and a graduate of a Soviet military college, he came to north Korea after the surrender of Japan in 1945 as a ranking officer in the Soviet Army. As a member of the Central Committee of the North Korean Labor Party and deputy commander in chief of the "People's Army," Kim directed the political and cultural indoctrination of

the officers' staff of the armed forces from 1945 until the creation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1948. After the "People's Republic" was established, he assumed the post he now holds as head of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the National Defense Ministry with the status of vice minister, promoted to the rank of Major General, and put in virtual control of all cultural and political matters involving the armed forces.

As a Soviet-Korean vice minister and a dominant figure in both the Army and National Defense Ministry, Kim is a top authority in military matters in the regime.

KIM IIsong

"Kim IIsong", whose real name is KIM Songch'u, is the ranking Communist leader in Korea by virtue of his official positions as Premier, Supreme Commander of the D.P.R.O.K. Armed Forces, chairman of the State Military Committee, and chairman of the Korean Labor Party. A relatively unknown Korean who had once operated as a bandit leader in Manchuria, Kim Songch'u has been built up by Soviet propaganda since October 1945 as the outstanding Korean patriot and national hero and hailed by the Soviets as the "peerless leader" of the Korean people. By assigning him the alias of "Kim IIsong," the Soviet occupation authorities in north Korea utilized the name and reputation of a much older Korean whose guerrilla activities against the Japanese in Manchuria and northern Korea during the years from 1930 to 1940 had made him almost a legend throughout Korea. The original Kim IIsong, a graduate of the Japanese Military Academy in Tokyo who could speak several languages fluently, including Russian, is believed to have been killed by the Japanese Army sometime after 1940. The present Kim IIsong is described by noncommunist sources as a man of rough habits and little formal education, yet one who possesses shrewdness, native intelligence, an engaging manner, and who is more of a genuine force than generally credited by noncommunist observers. He is reported to be a good orator, but to have little facility in speaking languages other than Korean. Communist sources claim he rendered distinguished services to the Soviet cause during World War II as an officer in the Red Army, for which he has been decorated by Stalin and profusely eulogized in the communist press.

Born April 15, 1912 in Pyongan-namdo at Man'gyongdae, a small town a few miles southwest of P'yongyang, Kim was named Kim Songch'u by his father, Kim Hyongchik, a school teacher and minor revolutionary who spent most of his life fleeing from the Japanese in northern Korea and Manchuria. It is reported that after the death of his father, Kim Songch'u migrated to Manchuria

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and became a minor partisan and bandit leader and finally disappeared into the U.S.S.R. in the early 1940's. Between 1942 and 1945, he is said to have received formal communist indoctrination at a Soviet party school in the Far East.

Kim returned to Korea in 1945 under the sponsorship of the Soviets and as a junior officer in the Soviet Army. In the autumn of 1945, at a liberation celebration in P'yŏngyang, Cho Mansik, an able Korean nationalist leader and the most respected noncommunist politician in north Korea, was persuaded to introduce Kim to the Korean public under the alias of Kim Il-sŏng, renowned national hero of Korean resistance against the Japanese. Cho, disturbed by communist activity following arrival of the Soviets in north Korea in August 1945, had been privately reassured by Kim that he was not in sympathy with communist aims, but was in reality a fervent nationalist. Thus convinced, Cho introduced Kim Sŏngch'u as "Kim Il-sŏng," ardent patriot and nationalist, and Kim made his first public speech to the North Korean people. The audience trusted Cho and gave Kim an enthusiastic reception. Cho Mansik, having served his purpose and being a potential political rival of the communists, was soon shunted aside by them and became virtually a prisoner in P'yŏngyang.

The consequences of Kim's sudden public prominence were immediate and widespread. At an important conference of the Korean Communist Party in October 1945, Kim, as a result of Soviet support, obtained leadership of the party from both the local north Korean communists and from the head of the Korean Communist Party, Pak Il-ŏng who subsequently returned to south Korea to head the South Korean Labor Party, the Communist Party's organization south of the 38th parallel.

Upon the establishment of the "Republic" in September 1948, Kim was placed at the head of the newly formed cabinet as premier. Although in theory the cabinet is subordinate to the Supreme People's Assembly, nominally the highest agency of state authority, actually the Assembly does little more than ratify decrees drafted by the cabinet and the state Military Committee, which was created in June 1950 to rule the nation with "absolute power" for the duration of the current Korean hostilities. Kim's titular supremacy in a state at war is assured by his dual positions as Supreme Commander of D.P.R.O.K. Armed Forces and chairman of the Military Committee.

Over and above the state executive and administrative hierarchy is the Korean Labor Party, created in August 1949 by the amalgamation of the North and South Korean Labor Parties which had been established in Korea during 1946. Kim assumed the chairmanship of the KLP at the time

of its formation, although ex-First Secretary Ho Ka'i, a former official of the Soviet Communist Party and a leading Soviet-Korean government figure, was reputed to be the most powerful member of the KLP.

Although Kim is the titular head of both party and state, ultimate power in the D.P.R.O.K. is exercised by the Soviets acting through their trusted henchmen, the inner core of party stalwarts. In the case of the D.P.R.O.K., this group consists not only of Kim and his Soviet-trained fellow partisans, but especially the small but extremely influential coterie of Soviet-Koreans who occupy the nominally second-level party and governmental positions. Ho Kai, in his current cabinet post as Deputy Premier, may possibly surpass Kim in real authority in the state.

Kim is the father of two children by a former wife whom he married in Manchuria and who is reported to have died in 1949. In January 1950 he married the daughter of Hong Myŏnghui, one of the three D.P.R.O.K. deputy premiers.

KIM Muchŏng

General Kim Muchŏng (also known as Mu Chŏng, Wu T'ing, Choe Muchŏng, and Kim Ilom), is a prominent communist military leader and former commander of the Korean Volunteer Corps in China. He represents, together with Kim Tu-bong, former chairman of the Korean Independence Alliance at Yen-an, the leadership of the so-called "Yenan Faction" of Korean communists (i.e., Koreans who fought with Chinese Communists at Yen-an [Fu-shih], China). Closely associated with the Chinese Communists for many years and the possessor of an outstanding military record as a fighter against the Japanese, Kim and his followers returned to north Korea in November 1945 amid popular acclaim. As a brilliant military commander backed by a considerable army, he rivaled the popularity of Kim Il-sŏng. The latter, however, had Soviet support, and he and his Soviet sponsors quickly neutralized any influence Kim Muchŏng's military strength might possess by immediately disarming and scattering his army. When the "People's Army" was organized in 1946 the remnants of the Kim Muchŏng forces were absorbed into the larger, centrally controlled forces. As a result of his popularity and prestige in communist military circles, Kim at first was assigned to fairly prominent posts in the north Korean administration and North Korean Labor Party, and appointed to head the Artillery Headquarters of the "People's Army." However, by the end of 1948 he had been replaced in the party hierarchical posts and demoted to lower military positions, and in 1949 was even censured at a Labor Party meeting. Early in the present Korean conflict Kim was reported

to be commander of the north Korean Second Army Corps, and recent reports indicate that Kim's influence in north Korean army circles has increased since the entry of the Chinese Communists into the hostilities.

Born in 1902 in Hamgyŏng-pukto, Kim has received most of his military training and his political indoctrination with the Chinese Communists. After receiving a higher school education in Seoul, he graduated from the Artillery Department of the Northern Army Academy, China, in 1926, and the Military Staff College of the Eighth Route Army Headquarters at Yen-an after 1936. A member of the Chinese Communist Party since 1925, Kim apparently joined the Chinese Communist army following the 1927 split between the Nationalists and the Communists. Subsequently he served as regimental commander during the "Long March," and was one of the outstanding leaders of the famous Chinese Eighth Route Army during the Sino-Japanese War. During the early 1940's Kim was one of the organizers of the Chinese communist-sponsored Korean Independence Alliance, and from 1942-1945 was commander in chief of the Korean Volunteer Army under the Chinese Communist forces.

After returning to north Korea following the surrender of Japan in 1945, Kim served as chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the north Korean Interim People's Committee and chief of the Organization Bureau of the Korean Communist Party. After 1946 he was appointed GHQ artillery commander in the "People's Army," Deputy Minister of National Defense (in charge of artillery) in Kim Il-sŏng's cabinet, and a member of the Central Committee of the North Korean Labor Party, but was not allowed to exercise any real authority in these posts. Ch'oe Yŏnggŭn, Soviet-trained crony of Kim Il-sŏng, as Minister of National Defense and commander of the "People's Army," was Kim Muchŏng's superior and he effectively diminished Kim's influence in military circles after 1946.

Kim Il-sŏng and Kim Muchŏng, in their early duel for supremacy in the regime, are reported to have had serious disagreements concerning how communism should be administered in North Korea. It was said that while the former was perfectly willing to allow the Soviets to determine basic policies in the regime, the latter favored closer ties with the Chinese Communists and a more nationalistic brand of communism. However, it is probable that the real differences between the two were not based on ideology but represented primarily a naked struggle for power by the leaders of two politico-military factions of diverse background and training. The struggle was early resolved decisively in favor of the Kim Il-sŏng

faction mainly as the result of three basic factors: 1) the Soviets backed Kim Il-sŏng unequivocally; 2) Kim Muchŏng was never prominent or skillful, politically, and is distinguished for his military leadership rather than his political accomplishments; and 3) Kim Muchŏng failed to receive the support of his co-leader in the "Yenan Faction," Kim Tubong, who quickly conceded political supremacy to Kim Il-sŏng and was content to play a less active role, albeit one carrying high titular rank.

KIM P'a

Kim P'a, chief of counterintelligence operations in North Korea, is a Soviet-Korean who is reported to have been an agent of the Soviet MVD in Kazakh S.S.R. during the early 1940's and during most of World War II. It is said that the Soviets considered him technically the most skilled and competent Korean in the intelligence field, and he had the reputation of being the most feared man in north Korea because of his great influence in political intelligence activities. As chief of the counterespionage section of the former Political Security Bureau, a powerful and nearly autonomous agency in the Internal Affairs Ministry, Kim was reputed to be the most powerful figure in the organization and more feared than Pang Hakse, Soviet-Korean chief of the bureau. Prior to the removal of the Political Security Bureau from the Internal Affairs Ministry and its reorganization as the Ministry of Public Security (political police) about April 1951, Kim is said to have been placed in control of military intelligence operations and removed to Army General Headquarters. In 1950, he was reported to have been active in security operations in Seoul following the first communist occupation of that city.

Kim P'a was born about 1917 in Asiatic Russia and reportedly graduated from a Soviet normal school. He came to P'yŏngyang after the end of World War II as an officer in the Soviet Army and was active in intelligence operations under the Soviet military government. When the Political Defense Bureau was established in the Internal Affairs Ministry, about November 1948, Kim was appointed deputy chief of the bureau and head of the First Office, in charge of counterintelligence operations. In October 1949, he is reported to have assumed charge of the Third Office, responsible for the political security and indoctrination of the D.P.R.O.K. "People's Army".

Kim is said to be a highly trusted adviser to the Soviet officials in north Korea and consulted by them on important matters even prior to their consultations with Kim Il-sŏng. His influence in the Political Security Bureau was said to have been so great that he was responsible for briefing Kim Il-sŏng on external matters and internal political

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trends and personalities, and was accountable to nobody, including Pang Hakse, for the contents of these briefings. As a result of his power, political leaders and army officers regardless of position or rank are said to hold Kim in the greatest of awe. His influence was further enhanced when he was placed in control of army security and intelligence operations. An unverified report states that he was recently sent to Japan.

KIM Talhyōn

Vice Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and chairman of the semireligious *Ch'ōndokyo* (Young Friends Party), one of the few minor political parties allowed to exist in the D.P.R.O.K., Kim Talhyōn's positions are more titular than active since his real influence in policy-forming circles is believed to be slight. As he is not officially a Communist and has no record of participation in the communist underground movement, his positions amount to "democratic" window dressing on the part of the real rulers of the state.

Kim was born July 1884 in Hamju-gun, Hamgyōng-namdo, and is a graduate of Suwon Agricultural School and Aoyama Gakuin, a private college in Tokyo. Prior to World War II, he taught for many years at Huimun Middle School, Seoul, and at other educational institutions. Kim also engaged in farming in Hamgyōng-namdo for a time, and was active in farmers' organizations, especially the Korean Farmers Association. It is reported that he was imprisoned by the Japanese for participating in the 1919 Korean independence uprisings.

Under the Soviet occupation of north Korea following the Japanese surrender, Kim was appointed chairman of the *Ch'ōndokyo* in 1946, and vice chairman of the North Korean Interim People's Assembly the following year. He has been vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly since the establishment of the D.P.R.O.K. in 1948.

KIM Tubong

A noted Marxist scholar and a recognized authority on the Korean language, Kim Tubong has been connected with the Korean revolutionary movement since before 1919, when he fled to Shanghai to escape imprisonment by the Japanese. He was an old revolutionary associate of Yō Unhyōng and Kim Kyusik, former south Korean political leaders, and was a leader of the so-called Yen-an faction of Korean communists. In his current position as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, Kim is the nominal head of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the official title of President. In spite of his high position in the North Korean government, his actual influence in top political circles of the re-

gime is believed to be slight at the present time. A factor in his loss of power may be that he, together with Kim Muchōng, represents the leadership of the group of Korean Communists of Yen-an background which, prior to the Korean War, had gradually been reduced in authority and prestige in favor of Soviet-Koreans, or Soviet-trained Koreans like Kim Ilsōng and his followers.

Born March 17, 1888 or 1889 in Kyōngsang-namdo, in southeast Korea, Kim Tubong attended secondary school in Seoul. There is no available record of any other formal education, although it is reported that he has intensively studied the Korean classics and the works of Marx, Engels, and other Marxist writers. Kim taught school in Seoul until he fled to China in 1919. During the 1920's, he was principal of a Korean school in Shanghai which specialized in the Korean language and classics. It is reported that while he was in Shanghai he persistently declined to accept high posts in the Korean Provisional Government, then in exile in China, but showed a preference for left-wing Korean émigré groups in China such as the *Taehan* Independence Party, of which he was the leader during the 1920's, and the Korean People's Revolutionary Party (a communist-controlled party which he led in the 1930's). He went to Yen-an (Fu-shih) around 1940, and was chairman of the Korean Independence Alliance from 1942 until he returned to Korea in November 1945.

In north Korea Kim Tubong and his followers engaged in a losing struggle for political supremacy with Kim Ilsōng and his followers, who had the full backing of the Soviet occupation authorities. The Soviets realized, however, that some major concessions would have to be made in the case of Kim Tubong, who had tremendous prestige and influence with the Yen-an group of Korean communists and other groups. Accordingly, in 1946 Kim was appointed vice chairman of the North Korean Provisional People's Committee, the highest executive and administrative organ in north Korea prior to the establishment of the "Republic" in 1948. Meanwhile, Kim had reorganized the Korean Independence Alliance as the New Democratic Party, which merged with the Korean Communist Party (northern branch) in 1946 to form the North Korean Labor Party. Kim served as chairman of the North Korea Labor Party until its reorganization in 1949, at which time he was significantly removed from key party posts in favor of Soviet-trained Koreans like Kim Ilsōng and Pak Hōnyōng.

Kim has served as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and *ex-officio* "president" since the creation of the "People's Republic" in 1948. According to authoritative sources, Kim has been married three times, and has had chil-

dren by each wife. It is reported that, as a scholar of some repute, he has aided in the preparation of text books on grammar and literature used in some Korean elementary schools.

KIM Wönbong

Kim Wönbong, also known as Kim Yaksan, Minister of State Inspection was a veteran anti-Japanese resistance leader in China for many years prior to the surrender. He was a prominent commander of the Korean Volunteer Corps and an official of the left-of-center Korean National Revolutionary Party. Although he maintained some connections with the communist-led Korean Independence Alliance at Yen-an (Fu-shih), Kim participated in the predominantly rightist Korean Provisional Government as its Minister of War. He returned to southern Korea at the end of World War II and became chairman of the Korean National Revolutionary Party (renamed People's Republican Party in June 1947) upon the resignation of Kim Kyusik, co-founder of the party. Kim Wönbong was the second-ranking leader of the communist-led South Korean Democratic People's Front prior to his defection to the D.P.R.O.K. in September 1948. Currently Kim, a noncommunist, possesses little actual power, and is used primarily to provide a democratic façade for the D.P.R.O.K.

Born 1894 in Kyöngsang-namdo, Kim is a graduate of Whampoa Military Academy at Canton. During the 1930's he was active as an official of the Korean Provisional Government in China, co-founder with Kim Kyusik of the Korean National Revolutionary Party, and founder and commander in chief of the Korean Volunteer Corps. In 1942, he was appointed Minister of War in the Korean Provisional Government. During this period, Kim Wönbong was one of the most noted of the non-communist Korean resistance military leaders.

Following the close of World War II, Kim was active in politics below the 38th parallel. He took the Korean National Revolutionary Party into the ranks of the communist-infiltrated Democratic People's Front in 1946 and became a top leader of the latter organization. As chairman of the People's Republican Party and a co-chairman of the Democratic Front, he attended the communist-sponsored North-South Joint Political Conference at P'yöngyang in 1948, following which he did not return to south Korea. When the D.P.R.O.K. was established in September of that year, he was appointed Minister of State Inspection and member of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Kim remains chairman of the People's Republican Party, one of the few political groups other than the Korean Labor Party still permitted to exist in the regime.

KWÖN Ochik

Kwön Ochik, who is the North Korean regime's Ambassador to Communist China, is a former vice minister of Foreign Affairs and minister to the Hungarian People's Republic. Following the surrender of Japan in August 1945, Kwön, a veteran revolutionist, was active in south Korea for approximately ten months as an organizer and leader of the Korean Communist Party and the South Korean Labor Party.

Born in 1905 in Kyöngsang-pukto, Kwön joined the communist youth movement in the early 1920's. After participating in the organization of the Korean Communist Party in the mid-1920's, he fled to the U.S.S.R., where he is reported to have attended and graduated from the Far Eastern University in Moscow. From the time of his return to Korea in 1928 until the Japanese surrender in 1945, he spent much of his time in prison as a result of his underground activities in behalf of the communists.

Following World War II Kwön was released from prison and resumed his communist activities as publisher and chief editor of the *Haebang Ilbo*, a Seoul communist newspaper. He helped reorganize the Korean Communist Party and was also active in a communist counterfeit ring which allegedly printed millions of spurious south Korean won to finance communist operations below the 38th parallel. When a warrant for his arrest as a counterfeiter was issued by the U.S. occupation authorities in May 1946, he fled to north Korea, where he remained influential in South Korean Labor Party activities as secretary of the party's standing committee and head of its cultural affairs department.

Following the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1948, Kwön was appointed Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the state's Supreme People's Assembly. As an official of the Foreign Ministry, he participated in the negotiations just north of the 38th parallel in December 1949 which led to the release of two officials of the former U.S. Economic Cooperation Administration mission in Korea who had been seized and detained by the communists. Kwön served as Minister to the Hungarian People's Republic from June 1950 until January 1952. In March 1952 he was appointed ambassador to Communist China, succeeding Yi Chuyön.

NAM II

Chief of the general staff and Field Commander of the North Korean Armed Forces, and currently head of the communist delegation at the Korean cease-fire negotiations, General Nam II is an influential Soviet-Korean military leader and former Vice Minister of Education. A powerful figure in

the interim regime's Bureau of Education and, after 1948, in the Ministry of Education, he was commissioned as a general officer in the rear areas department of the National Defense Ministry (Army) shortly before the communist invasion of June 25, 1950. Nam was appointed chief of staff of the "People's Army" several months after the death of the former chief of staff, Lieutenant General Kang Kun, who was reported killed in action on September 8, 1950. As a particularly able and trusted henchman of the Soviets Nam was selected, in his official capacity as army field commander, to head the communist delegation at the peace talks in Korea which began at Kaesong on July 10, 1951.

Born in Asiatic Russia about 1912, Nam attended military schools in the U.S.S.R. and is reported to have fought the Germans during World War II as a captain in the Red Army. He came to north Korea with the Soviets following the surrender of Japan in 1945 and was assigned to key positions in the field of education in north Korea. After 1948, as the Soviet-Korean Vice Minister of Education, Nam was influential in shaping the educational policies of the regime in line with Soviet policies and converting the Ministry of Education into a key propaganda agency of the government.

PAK Chongae

Prominent as a government propagandist and Korean Labor Party leader, Madame Pak Chongae is the most powerful and influential woman in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. A member of the Soviet-Korean clique, she has collaborated closely with the Soviet authorities in North Korea, and has served them faithfully as trusted confidant, informer, and interpreter. Widow of Kim Yongbom, Chairman of the Inspection Department of the North Korean Labor Party who died in 1947, she has had a long career of association with communist organizations in the U.S.S.R., and is reported to have played a prominent role in the communist underground movement in Korea and Manchuria prior to and during World War II. After the surrender of Japan in 1945, she held high positions in the several Communist Party organizations in North Korea, and in November 1951 was appointed to the influential party posts of secretary (one of three) of the Korean Labor Party and member of the party's Political Committee. She has been a member of the party's Central Committee and chief of the Women's Department since 1945.

Since 1947, Madame Pak, in her official capacity as chairman of the Korean Democratic Women's League, an important governmental position, has been busy visiting communist countries as an offi-

cial D.P.R.O.K. spokesman and propagandist on the issues of the day, and perennial delegate to international communist conventions. In April 1951 the Soviet authorities announced that she had been awarded an International Stalin Peace Prize for her "outstanding and tireless services in behalf of world peace." She journeyed to Moscow the following June and accepted the prize amid much pomp and ceremony.

Born 1907 in Asiatic Russia, Madame Pak graduated from a Soviet teachers' college and taught school in the Soviet Union for several years. Her political activities began in the early 1920's when she joined the Young Communist League (*Komsomol*). During the 1930's, she is reported to have joined the Communist Party and worked in a factory in Moscow. After holding a position in the Moscow Municipal Administration from 1929 to 1932, she is said to have left the Soviet Union around 1932 to engage in underground activities against the Japanese in Korea and Manchuria. She is reputed to have settled in P'yongyang around 1936, where she worked in a rubber factory and continued her underground operations. Both she and her husband are said to have been imprisoned for two years by the Japanese prior to World War II because of communist activities.

Since the Japanese surrender, Madame Pak has held high posts in the north Korean party and state organizations, and she has been a key leader in the "women's movement" in north Korea. Some of the influential positions she has held during this period include those of chairman, Korean Democratic Women's League (1945 to present), executive official, North Korean Interim People's Committee (1945 to 1948); member of Central Committee and chief of Women's Department, Korean Communist Party, North Korean Labor Party, and Korean Labor Party (1945 to present); and member of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly (1948 to present).

Currently, Madame Pak is engaged in constant travel within the communist orbit in Europe and Asia. She makes frequent speeches extolling the "virtues" of Stalin and the Soviet Union and denouncing the "crimes" of the "American imperialist aggressor" in Korea, Japan, and elsewhere.

PAK Honyong

A veteran Soviet-trained communist revolutionary, Pak Honyong, Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier, is an influential member of the top political command in the North Korean government as a result of his Soviet connections and his long experience in the communist movement.

Between 1945 and 1947, he was leader of the Communist revolutionaries in south Korea who

directed the extreme left-wing movement in that part of the country following the establishment of the United States Army Military Government.

Pak was head of the Korean communist movement until October 1945, but after that date his prestige and power in the movement were superseded by the ascendancy of Kim Il-sŏng and his followers in north Korea, who took over the party leadership for both sections of the country. In 1946, Pak organized and assumed the leadership of the South Korean Labor Party (SKLP), which was the Communist Party's counterpart below the 38th parallel. In 1947 Pak fled to north Korea, where he continued to head the SKLP until its consolidation with the North Korean Labor Party in 1949 to form the Korean Labor Party (KLP). Following the amalgamation, he was designated as vice chairman of the KLP, but remained theoretically the spokesman for the south Korea communists, and their standard bearer in the North Korean regime.

Pak was born in 1899 in Yesan, Ch'ungch'ŏng-namdo, and graduated from a Seoul secondary school in 1919. He studied in the U.S.S.R. between 1927 and 1930, graduating from Lomonosov University, Moscow, the latter year. Pak has been active in the Korean communist movement since the early 1920's and was one of the founders of the Korean Communist Party, established in 1925. After several imprisonments by the Japanese police between 1925 and 1936 he is reported to have worked as a laborer in Ch'ŏlla-namdo and engaged in underground activities from 1936 until the liberation in August 1945. Some reports indicate that Pak was in Moscow between 1943 and 1945.

From August 1945 until September 6, 1946, when a warrant for his arrest was issued for actions inimical to the U.S. occupation forces, Pak operated openly as the chief communist spokesman in the American occupation zone. After September 1946, Pak went underground, but continued to dominate the south Korea communist movement as chairman of the SKLP. When the North Korean communist regime was formally established by the Soviets during August and September 1948, Pak was named Foreign Minister and one of the three deputy prime ministers in Kim Il-sŏng's cabinet. He still retains both posts.

Pak has been married twice and is reported to have had a daughter by each wife.

PAK Ilu

Although Pak Ilu, Minister of Internal Affairs of the North Korean regime, worked and fought with the Chinese Communists for many years, he is reported to be closely associated with Kim Il-sŏng and the Soviet-trained group of Korean communist leaders. A veteran Communist revolutionist,

he is a member of the Central and Political Committees of the Korean Labor Party and is one of the most influential leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Pak is believed to have close relations with the U.S.S.R. Currently, he is a member of the highly influential "Military Committee" of the state, is a general officer in the D.P.R.O.K. armed forces and deputy chief of staff of the combined Chinese Communist and Korean "People's Army" General Headquarters. Pak is described as clever and intelligent, and an expert on Chinese affairs.

Pak was born in 1911 in Hamgyŏng-pukto, but spent most of his early years in southern Manchuria, where he received an elementary and normal school education. While a student, he joined the Korean Communist Party and became active in the anti-Japanese resistance movement. In his youth he is reported to have travelled widely in both Manchuria and Soviet Russia, and in the early 1930's was imprisoned by the Japanese for several years. Around 1935, Pak joined the Chinese Communist forces, and during World War II was a member of the Korean Independence Alliance and deputy commander of the Korean military-political school at Yen-an. Along with Kim Muchŏng, Pak helped to reorganize the Korean Volunteer Corps into a communist military unit, with which he returned to northern Korea early in 1946 as deputy commander.

Prior to the establishment of the "People's Republic" in 1948, Pak was chief of the bureau of internal affairs of the North Korea People's Committee and a prominent organizer and leader of the North Korea Labor Party. When the D.P.R.O.K. was established in August of that year, he was made Minister of Internal Affairs and given a prominent post in the armed forces of the state.

PAK Munkyu

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and a key agricultural expert of the North Korean regime, Pak Munkyu was active in leftist political circles in south Korea following the surrender. He was reported to have been a prominent member of the Pak Honyong faction of the Korean Communist Party in 1945. He was also active as a member of the party's Central Executive Committee, a post he retained upon the party's reorganization in 1946 as the South Korean Labor Party. After serving approximately one year in jail in south Korea for leftist activities during 1947 and 1948, Pak escaped to the north in time to participate in the formation of the North Korean regime during August and September 1948, and was appointed Minister of Agriculture in Kim Il-sŏng's cabinet.

Born in Kyŏngsang-pukto about 1905, Pak graduated from Keijo (Seoul) Imperial University

around 1930 and was appointed to an assistant professorship at the university in the field of agricultural economics. He apparently was not too active in politics during the 1930's, but by the time of the surrender Pak was prominent enough to serve as an official of the short-lived Korean People's Republic, established in south Korea in August 1945. Following the Japanese surrender, he was an active leader of the communist groups in south Korea. During 1946 and 1947 he represented them on the Democratic People's Front, a coalition of leftist groups, and is reported to have been serving as chief of its General Affairs (Business and Administration) Section at the time of his arrest at the end of March 1947 on a charge of inciting the March 21st-22nd general strikes. According to newspaper reports, he was sentenced to three years imprisonment, and apparently was in jail from March 1947 until approximately April 1948. An unconfirmed report states that Pak was a member of the Central Committee of the Korean Labor Party in 1950.

PANG Hakse

Pang Hakse, Minister of Public Security (political police), is an influential Soviet-Korean who has been in charge of the state's top intelligence and investigative agencies. As chief of the former Political Security Bureau of the Internal Affairs Ministry prior to April 1951, he was in charge of counterintelligence operations and the North Korean political police, an elite corps responsible only to the bureau itself. Although Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and nominally the head of the Political Security Bureau, it was reported that Pang was actually subordinate in authority and prestige to Kim Pa, chief of the bureau's First Office and reputed to be the most feared man in North Korea. When the Political Security Bureau was removed from the Internal Affairs Ministry in April 1951 and reorganized as the Ministry of Public Security, Pang was made chief of the new ministry. He is an official of the Central Committee of the Korean Labor Party, is reported to have very close connections with the Soviets and to be one of their most trusted agents.

Born about 1910, Pang is reported to be a graduate of a U.S.S.R. law college and a former Soviet judicial officer. He served in the Soviet Army prior to and during World War II, and during part of this period he is said to have served as an agent of the MVD. He entered north Korea following the surrender in 1945 as an officer of the Soviet Army, in which he acted as interpreter and intelligence agent. When the "People's Republic" was established in 1948, Pang was made Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and placed in charge of the Political Security Bureau of that ministry, with the rank of lieutenant general.

YI Yǒng

Minister of Justice Yi Yǒng was one of the early leaders in the Korean communist movement. His repeated participation from 1945 until 1948 in moderate south Korean coalition groups, such as the National Independence Federation and the Society for the Acceleration of Korean Unification, and invariable return to the communist fold, appear to justify the conclusion that he has long functioned as a communist "fifth columnist" infiltrating opposition groups.

Born in 1888 in Pukch'ǒng, Hamgyǒng-namdo, Yi is a graduate of a private secondary school in Seoul and an industrial training college in Nanking, China. As early as 1920, he was reported to have been engaged in organizing leftist organizations in Korea, and from 1928 until 1933 was imprisoned by the Japanese for communist activities as secretary of the Korean Communist Party. After the Japanese surrender in 1945, Yi was active in communist circles in Seoul and was regarded as a rival of Pak Hǒnyǒng in the battle among extreme leftists in south Korea for control of the Korean Communist Party. He organized a Seoul communist faction which was later absorbed by a Soviet-approved organization under Pak's leadership. From 1946 until 1948 he was a member of and active in noncommunist organizations such as Yǒ Unhyǒng's Socialist Labor Party, the South Korean Democratic People's Front, the Laboring People's Party (of which he is currently chairman), and the National Independence Federation, one of the last coalition efforts among moderate left-wing elements in south Korea.

After participating in the Soviet-sponsored North-South Joint Political Conferences at P'yǒng-yang during April and June 1948, Yi remained in the north and became a top official of the "People's Republic" upon its organization the following August and September. He served as Minister of Municipal Administration until his appointment as Minister of Justice in December 1951. He has been Vice Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly since September 1948. When the south Korean branch of the Laboring People's Party disbanded in 1949 Yi assumed the chairmanship of the party.

Republic of Korea (South Korea)

AN Chaehong

An Chaehong, former Korean Civil Administrator under U.S. Army Military Government in Korea during 1947 and 1948, was prominent in south Korean politics until captured by the communists in July 1950 and taken north upon their first retreat from Seoul. After 1945, he was active for a time in rightist organizations, but soon became one of

the major moderate political leaders, although more conservative than some of his colleagues. He is greatly respected by Koreans for his wartime leadership against the Japanese within Korea. One of the few Korean independence leaders who remained in Korea throughout the period of Japanese control, An was imprisoned nine times by the Japanese. He is a forceful man and a capable administrator, and is also well-versed in the publishing and newspaper business. His present whereabouts and activities are unknown, but it is presumed he is still under communist control. He is alleged to have made a broadcast from Seoul in July 1950 congratulating the communists on their victory, and the communist radio at P'yongyang on May 1, 1951 reported that An had signed the world-wide "peace appeal" promoted by the communist "World Peace Council."

Born November 1891 in P'yongt'aeng-ni, Kyonggi-do, An is a graduate of a YMCA middle school in Seoul and the Political Science Department of Waseda University, Tokyo. During the 1920's and 1930's he was active in the newspaper field as editor of *Sidae Ilbo* and *Choson Ilbo* from 1925 to 1932 and participated in the independence movement, for which he was frequently imprisoned. Following the surrender of Japan in 1945, An was influential in conservative political circles in southern Korea during the American occupation. He organized the rightist Nationalist Party in 1945, served as publisher and editor of the *Hansong Ilbo* during 1946 and was an executive member of the Korean Independence Party, 1946-1947. He served as an appointed member of the Korean Interim Legislative Assembly (KILA) in 1947 until appointed Civil Administrator of the South Korean Interim Government (SKIG) in February of that year. After the inauguration of the Republic of Korea in 1948, An was in virtual political retirement until his election to the National Assembly in May 1950.

CHANG Myon

Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea until April 1952 and former Korean Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Chang Myon (also known as Dr. John M. Chang) has been influential in conservative political circles in south Korea since the Japanese surrender in 1945, although he is not a member of any political party.

The leading Catholic layman in Korea, he has long been active in the religious, cultural, and civic life of the country. Chang entered politics in 1946, and after serving several years as a member of south Korean legislative organs and R.O.K. representative at the United Nations, was appointed Ambassador at Washington in January 1949. He left this post to become Prime Minister in January 1951, and after a stormy 15 months in office was removed by President Rhee, ostensibly because of ill health, but probably because Rhee feared that Chang, as Prime Minister, was in too strong a strategic position as a potential presidential candidate. Although he professes to be disinterested in the presidency, there are indications that he is extremely ambitious politically and must be seriously considered as a potential presidential candidate.

Born of a distinguished family in Seoul, August 28, 1899, Dr. Chang is a graduate of Suwon Agricultural College, Kyonggi-do (1917), Venard Preparatory School, Scranton, Pennsylvania (1921) and Manhattan College, New York City (A.B., 1925).

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He was the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Manhattan College in 1948 on the occasion of his appointment as Ambassador to the United States.

An ardent Catholic, Chang served as a special representative to Vatican City when he went to Paris in September 1948 as head of the R.O.K. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. While Prime Minister, he was knighted in May 1951 by Pope Pius XII. Chang is believed to be the first Korean to receive Catholic knighthood.

As Korean Ambassador to Washington during 1949 and 1950, he was regarded by State Department officials as "vigorous and effective" in representing Korea's interests, and as a diplomat who apparently exerted every effort to establish and maintain good working relations with his diplomatic colleagues in Washington and elsewhere.

Chang was not too successful, however, as Prime Minister. He did not get along well with Rhee, and despite the fact that he proved to be hard-working and conscientious, was rather weak and vacillating, lacked fortitude, and displayed little skill in administrative and parliamentary procedures. In addition, his moderation and attempted objectivity were ineffective amid the rampant emotionalism and extremism which have existed in south Korean politics since the Japanese surrender.

Chang is regarded by American officials as honest and temperate and an "intelligent conservative" in his political and social views. He has worked well with Americans both in the United States and Korea and is believed to be genuinely pro-American as well as sympathetic to the American viewpoint in the UN attempt to settle the Korean hostilities.

He is married and has seven children, several of whom are attending school in the United States.

CHANG T'aeksang

Chang T'aeksang, long a controversial figure in south Korean politics, was appointed Prime Minister April 24, 1952. Official American sources describe him as an intelligent, ambitious, political opportunist who is basically friendly toward the United States.

Chang made many enemies and earned the hatred of important political groups while serving as police chief of Seoul and deputy director of the national police under U.S. Military Government in south Korea from 1946 to 1948. Erratic and volatile, he was considered by some Americans as "cruel" and "ruthless" in these posts. Other official American sources felt that he was a capable and efficient administrator, and, although far from the ideal police chief, the best man available at the time. He was a key figure in the suppression of communists during his tenure as police head, and his strong and consistent anticommunist record was in his favor after June 1950. He served as Foreign Minister for a short period following the establishment of the Republic of Korea in August 1948, and in May 1950 was elected to the National Assembly. By amassing support of members from the two Kyongsang provinces, Chang was elected vice speaker of the Assembly the following month, a position he retained until his confirmation as Prime Minister.

Although Chang T'aeksang has not openly associated himself with any political party, he was considered an opponent of the Rhee administration until fairly recently. At one time inclined toward the rightist Korean (*Han'guk*) Democratic Party, which was reorganized as the Democratic Nationalist Party in 1949, he severed connections with this party sometime prior to that year. Upon his dismissal as Foreign Minister in January 1949 in favor of Yim Pyongchik (Ben C. Limb), Chang went into retirement and was considered anti-Rhee. He was inactive from January 1949 until May 1950, at which time he was elected to the National Assembly. Since Chang, as Vice Speaker of the Assembly after June 1950, was in a position to cause trouble for Rhee in that body, the latter appointed Chang to the unofficial R.O.K. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in September 1950, presumably to get him out of the country.

In recent months there have been indications that Chang and Rhee have reconciled their differences. On March 20, 1952, Chang delivered a congratulatory address at the National Convention of Rhee's Liberal Party. Notwithstanding this possibility, his nomination as Prime Minister was definitely a conciliatory step by Rhee to ease the existing tension between the latter and the National Assembly, since Chang has the support of impor-

tant anti-Rhee factions within the Assembly. American Embassy officials at Pusan consider Chang one of the few persons Rhee could nominate at this time for the premiership who would be acceptable to the Assembly.

Born November 22, 1891, in Kyongsang-pukto and a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Chang T'aeksang is the son of a former high official under the Japanese regime in Korea who was assassinated by a Korean nationalist, and the brother of a member of the Korean Privy Council under the Japanese. Some prejudice exists against him among many Korean nationalists because of his family connections. Wealthy, ambitious, and suave in his dealings with foreigners, Chang speaks English well and enjoys social activities.

CH'I Ch'ongch'on

A former Commander-in-Chief of the Korean Restoration Army (*Kwangbok*) under the Korean Provisional Government in China, Ch'i Ch'ongch'on (alias Ch'i T'aehyong and Yi Ch'ongch'on) is currently a national assemblyman and member of the Supreme Committee of the Democratic Nationalist Party. He is regarded as a clever man with considerable administrative ability, but a dangerous and ambitious schemer. Ch'i is a bitter rival of Yi Pomsok, formerly R.O.K. Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense, and an alleged assassination attempt against Yi's life was reported to have been traced to him. Ch'i returned to Korea from China in 1947 with Syngman Rhee and subsequently formed the *Taedong* Youth Corps, in an attempt to unify all nationalist youth groups. He secured at least nominal adherence of two million youths, among whom he still commanded a strong following even after absorption of the *Taedong* into the Korean Youth Corps in late 1948. In addition to being a key leader of the conservative Democratic Nationalist Party, Ch'i is reported to have formed a secret organization composed of extreme nationalists. He changed his original name, Ch'i T'aehyong, to Yi Ch'ongch'on during the fight in China against the Japanese, but resumed his original name in the National Assembly; recently, he changed his given name back to the given name of his wartime alias, Ch'ongch'on.

Born in 1889 in Seoul, Ch'i was graduated from the Military Academy Preparatory School, Tokyo, in 1910, and the Japanese Military Academy, Tokyo, in 1914. While a second lieutenant in the Japanese Army, he joined the Korean independence movement in 1919. From 1919 until the liberation in 1945, Ch'i served with the Chinese Army and the Korean Restoration Army in China and Manchuria, becoming commander in chief of the latter in 1924.

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After his return to Korea in 1947, Ch'i served for a period as vice chairman of Rhee's National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence, and later as R.O.K. Minister without Portfolio. In late 1948, he and Sin Ikhüi, National Assembly Speaker, organized the Korean Nationalist Party. The following year, he and Sin, contrary to the wishes of President Rhee, led a portion of the Korean Nationalist Party, in merger with the Korean (*Han'guk*) Democratic Party, into the Democratic Nationalist Party camp. Ch'i has been a member of the National Assembly since May 1948.

CHO Pyöngok

General Secretary and one of the top leaders of the opposition Democratic Nationalist Party, Dr. Cho Pyöngok is regarded by American observers as one of the more able politicians of the Republic of Korea. A former Seoul police chief and head of the Korean national police under the U.S. Military Government from 1945 to 1948, Cho's political career received a serious set-back when he was defeated by Yun Ch'iyöng, a Rhee intimate, in the National Assembly by-elections of February 5, 1952 (he had previously been defeated decisively by Cho Soang in the May 1950 National Assembly general elections). A capable and forceful administrator, he possesses distinct qualities of leadership. He is regarded as pro-American and violently anticommunist. Although he was bitterly criticized and widely disliked by many Americans and Korean officials for harsh police methods directed ruthlessly against Korean leftists while he was police chief, and later accused of embezzlement while Home Minister in 1950 and 1951, Cho is generally regarded as an intelligent and energetic person.

Cho Pyöngok was born August 15, 1894 in Ch'ungh'öng-namdo. He has an A.B., A.M., and a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University, and has had a varied career as college professor, newspaper editor, manager of a mining company, police official, and diplomat at the United Nations. Cho taught at Chosön Christian College at Seoul from 1925 to 1933, and was admired by the students for his outspoken criticism of school and government authorities. During this period, he was imprisoned several times for anti-Japanese activities. He served as a director of the Seoul newspaper *Chosön Ilbo* (Korean Daily News) from 1933 to 1937, and for the next nine years was manager of a gold mine. Following the surrender of Japan in 1945, Cho was prominent in the organization and leadership of the *Han'guk* Democratic Party and its successor, the Democratic Nationalist Party. Under U.S. Military Government, his forcefulness and political acumen as exercised in his post as chief of the Korean national police made him one of the strongest and most influential men in south-

ern Korea. It was during this period that the *Han'guk* Democratic Party built up its membership within the ranks of the police and local governments. In 1948 and 1949 Cho served as R.O.K. representative to the United Nations, and as President Rhee's Special Representative to the United States. He is chairman of the Korean United Nations Association. Minister of Home Affairs from August 1950 until May 1951, Cho was removed during the latter month in the purge of the anti-Rhee elements in the cabinet.

Cho is reported to drink heavily and to have some negative personality traits which make dealing with him difficult. He still retains some of the unpopularity he achieved as police chief. American officials at the United Nations stated that Cho seemed awkward and confused, and failed to present a strong case for his country before that body.

CHO Soang

A former Korean nationalist leader and principal henchman of the late rightist leader Kim Ku, Cho Soang organized the middle-of-the-road Socialist Party in 1948, and was the leader of that party until the communist invasion of Seoul in July 1950. He was elected to the R.O.K. National Assembly on the Socialist Party ticket in the May 1950 elections in a campaign in which the R.O.K. Government accused him of having communist support. Immediately after the elections, however, Cho called on President Rhee and publicly pledged his loyalty to the Republic, but he remained in Seoul following the first invasion of the city and was subsequently taken north when the Reds retreated. Although communist broadcasts since the outbreak of the Korean hostilities claim that Cho has backed the communist regime in some of its propaganda campaigns, it is possible that his alleged support of the communists was given under duress. A former leader of the small group of middle-of-the-road politicians in the Republic of Korea, Cho has been described by an American official in Korea as a "fluent speaker intensely assured of his own Messianic call to leadership."

Born April 8, 1887 in Kyönggi-do, Cho is a graduate of Meiji University Law School in Tokyo. He was associated with the Korean Provisional Government from its establishment in Shanghai in 1919, and served as its Foreign Minister until the surrender of Japan. Prior to 1945, he taught at Seoul National University Law School. After the surrender, Cho was the vice chairman and chief lieutenant of Kim Ku in the Korean Independence Party. In spite of his close association with Kim Ku and the Independence Party, Cho maintained a somewhat independent attitude politically in south Korea under the American occupation and after the establishment of the Republic. On the grounds

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that he had retired from politics, he refused an invitation to attend the Soviet-inspired North-South Joint Political Conference, held at P'yöngyang in April 1948 to oppose the impending United Nations-inspired elections in the south. Late in 1948, Cho Soang seceded from the Korean Independence Party, formed his own Socialist Party, and was elected to the National Assembly as leader of the socialists in the May 1950 elections, defeating Cho Pyöngok decisively.

KIM Kyusik

Regarded as Korea's outstanding moderate statesman, Kim Kyusik commanded a popular respect in Korea second only to Syngman Rhee. A noted nationalist leader, he was one of the original founders of the Korean Provisional Government, organized in Shanghai in 1919, and held important administrative positions in the organization for many years. He remained in China almost continuously until 1945, as a college professor and chairman of the left-of-center Korean National Revolutionary Party. After the surrender of Japan in 1945, Kim returned to Korea and assumed leadership of the middle-of-the-road political factions that tried unsuccessfully to bring about a coalition of all political groups. After participating in the first communist-sponsored North-South Joint Political Conference at P'yöngyang in the spring of 1948, Kim returned to Seoul disheartened and disillusioned and entered into virtual retirement. He remained in Seoul and was captured by the communists when they invaded the city in July 1950. Communist newsmen declared in October 1951 that Kim had died of natural causes, but reports of his death have never been subsequently verified. Although he was highly intellectual, and was known and respected throughout Korea, Kim was not a clever politician. He had been in poor health for many years.

Born January 1881 in Kangwön-do, Dr. Kim was graduated with honors from Roanoke College, Va., in 1903, and was awarded his A.M. degree from Princeton University the following year. In 1923, Roanoke College conferred an honorary doctorate upon him.

Kim served as chairman of the Representative Democratic Council, established by U.S. Army Military Government in Korea in 1946, and later was appointed to the Korean Interim Legislative Assembly. He subsequently became Speaker of the Assembly. Kim resigned from this chairmanship in 1947 and took a leading role in the formation of the National Independence Federation, a weak coalition of middle-of-the-road and left-of-center groups, which boycotted the National Assembly elections of May 1948 and participated in the first North-South political conference at P'yöngyang.

Although Kim was a man of integrity who had great prestige among the Korean people, his political capabilities were limited and he was not able to develop any strong party support. He proved incapable of successfully dealing with the devious political intrigues of persons and groups secretly aligned with the communists in the north, or in winning support within the well-organized and powerful rightist political circles.

KIM Söngsu

Vice President of the Republic of Korea, Kim Söngsu was the most promising presidential candidate of the opposition Democratic Nationalist Party until he lost his health last year. He is a member of a wealthy landowning family, and is widely recognized as an educator, philanthropist, newspaperman, and a leading spokesman for the conservative, professional, and propertied elements in south Korea. One of the three top leaders of the Democratic Nationalists (Sin Ikhüi and Cho Pyöngok are the other two most prominent DNP officials), Kim was recently reelected to the DNP supreme committee and chairman of the party's standing central executive committee. Owner of the widely influential and bitterly antiadministration *Tong-A Ilbo*, the oldest and best known newspaper in Korea, he is probably the most powerful opponent of Syngman Rhee in the Republic. Kim has more prestige with the Korean people than any of the other DNP leaders, although his opponents charge him with collaboration with the Japanese prior to 1945. His long record of service to his people as educator, philanthropist, and statesman has achieved for him a position of prominence surpassed only by that of Rhee. His election to the office of Vice President by the National Assembly in May 1951 further increased his prestige, and at that time he was regarded as the strongest candidate to unseat Rhee in the 1952 presidential election. However, he suffered a stroke in July 1951 which left him bedridden and semiparalytic.

Kim was born September 1891 in Chölla-pukto, and is a graduate of Waseda University in Tokyo. He founded the *Tong-A Ilbo*, prominent Seoul daily now printed in Pusan, in 1923, and has published the paper almost continuously since that year. Always highly conservative, the paper's editorial policy is aligned with the very conservative anti-Rhee policies of the Democratic Nationalist Party. Extremely wealthy, Kim in 1932 founded Posong College (now the University of Korea), an outstanding, privately-endowed school near Seoul, and was president of that institution until 1946.

Following the end of World War II, Kim was appointed chairman of the Korean Advisory Council to U.S. Army Military Government in Korea, in October 1945. Although immediately after the

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Japanese surrender he was associated with Rhee's National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence, Kim seceded from this group by the end of 1945 and joined the *Han'guk* Democratic Party. He served as chairman of that party from January 1946 until it merged with the Sin Ikhul faction of the Korean Nationalist Party in January 1949 to form the Democratic Nationalist Party, most influential anti-Rhee party in the Republic. Kim's *Han'guk* Democrats formed a larger and more influential group than Sin's Nationalists at the time of the merger and Kim became the titular head of the DNP as chairman of its Supreme Committee, a position he retained until the party's convention in December 1951.

A man of means and ability, although very conservative in his outlook on economic and political problems, Kim's subsequent role in R.O.K. politics depends primarily upon the future state of his health.

PAE Ūnhul

A Presbyterian pastor for many years in southern Korea, Pae Ūnhul has been a close confident and loyal supporter of Syngman Rhee in both the National Society and the *Taehan* Nationalist Party, which he co-founded with Sin Ikhul in October 1948. As a leading official of Rhee's National Society, and chief of the R.O.K. Civil Service from August 1948 until the beginning of 1952, he was in a strong position to shape R.O.K. political and administrative policies to conform with the desires of President Rhee. Supported by Rhee's Liberal Party and designated the official candidate of the President on the *Taehan* Nationalist Party ticket, Pae was elected to the R.O.K. National Assembly in the February 1952 by-elections.

Born about 1887 in Chŏnju, Chŏlla-pukto, Pae is a graduate of the P'yŏngyang Presbyterian Seminary. A prominent Presbyterian minister in the Chŏlla area for many years, he was an active leader in Christian educational and orphanage work until the late 1930's, when he ceased these activities in protest against Japanese interference. After the Japanese surrender in 1945, he became a prominent leader of Rhee's National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence (NSAKI), later becoming one of the five vice chairmen of NSAKI and head of the Chŏlla-pukto provincial branch of the society. Co-founder of the *Taehan* Nationalist Party, created in 1948 in order to provide a strong political vehicle in support of the President, Pae was an influential leader of the party until Sin

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Ikhūi, National Assembly speaker, led the party into a merger with the Korean Democratic Party against Rhee's wishes.

Pae is not known to have had any training or experience in personnel administration prior to his appointment as chairman of the Civil Service Commission in August 1948. Although believed to be a man of integrity, his administration of the R.O.K. civil service has at times reflected his close personal and political association with the President.

SIN Ikhūi

Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and one of the leaders of the anti-Rhee Democratic Nationalist Party, Sin Ikhūi (Chinese name Wang Hai-kung) is regarded as second only to President Syngman Rhee in political acumen. He is extremely ambitious and intensely nationalistic, possesses a strong personality and marked qualities of leadership, and is generally considered one of the strongest of the several possible successors to Rhee as R.O.K. President. Sin is regarded as an able and efficient leader of the National Assembly, and has effectively balanced tact and forcefulness in managing the operations of that body. It is reported that Rhee himself recognizes Sin's ability, and probably would have nominated him for Prime Minister at one time had he been sure of his own ability to control Sin. American officials in Korea regard him as able, intelligent, and possessing an extremely pleasing manner, but basically opportunistic and unprincipled; in the past he apparently has changed his party affiliations whenever his personal interests dictated.

On international issues, Sin, along with other members of the original Chungking group of Korean nationalists, is uncompromisingly anticommunist. Like Yi Pömsöck, he has close connections with the Chiang Kai-shek regime and is subject to its influence. Sin is not unfriendly in his attitude toward the United States.

Ambitious to become president and unscrupulous in his methods, the politically astute Sin, in his dual roles as Speaker of the Assembly and a leader of the most influential anti-Rhee party in south Korea, represents the greatest potential challenge to Rhee's position as the most dominant political personality in the R.O.K.

Sin Ikhūi was born June 19, 1891 in Kyönggi-do and graduated from the Hansong Foreign Language School in Seoul (1909) and the College of Politics and Economics of Waseda University, Tokyo (1915). He speaks, reads, and writes English and Chinese, and is familiar with Japanese. In 1917 he was appointed to a professorship at Posung College, Seoul, and taught English, finance, and international law. He travelled to China,

Manchuria, and Siberia in connection with the Korean independence movement, and returned to Korea in 1919 in time to take part in the March independence demonstrations. He joined the Korean Provisional Government established in Shanghai in that year, and held numerous cabinet posts in the KPG while in exile in Nationalist China prior to the Japanese surrender in 1945. During this period Sin was an official of the conservative Korean Independence Party then under the leadership of the late Kim Ku.

For almost two years after his return to southern Korea in November 1945, Sin remained an active member of Kim Ku's political camp while at the same time playing a prominent role in the National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence and other political agencies of Syngman Rhee, Kim's rival at the time for rightist leadership. As an elected member of the Korean Interim Legislative Assembly, established in December 1946, on the Independence Party ticket, he was prominent on a number of important committees, and became Chairman of the Interim Assembly upon the resignation of Kim Kyusik prior to the National Assembly general elections in May 1948. Sin resigned from the Independence Party in July 1947 and took an active part in Rhee's campaign for a general election. In the May 1948 elections he won a seat in the new National Assembly, and was elected to one of its vice chairmanships. Upon the election of Rhee as President of the Republic in June 1948, Sin was elevated to the chairmanship (speaker) of the National Assembly, a post he has retained to the present.

Although elected to the National Assembly as a member of Rhee's National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence, Sin (along with Pae Ünhui and Chi Ch'öngch'ön) organized the Korean Nationalist Party in October 1948, and in January 1949 led part of it into a merger with the *Han'guk* Democratic Party to form the Democratic Nationalist Party (DNP), the most powerful anti-administration party at the present time. At the party's convention of December 1951, he was selected to replace Kim Söngsu, R.O.K. Vice President, as titular head of the DNP in the top party post, Chairman of the Supreme Committee. However, Kim Söngsu, although he has suffered a stroke and is incapacitated, retains dominance in the party.

Sin was re-elected to the National Assembly in May 1950 and to its chairmanship in June 1950. However, the party itself suffered a setback in the National Assembly by-elections of February 1952 when candidates supported by Rhee won seven out of eight seats and Cho Pyöngok, DNP secretary general, was defeated by Yun Ch'iyöng, a pro-Rhee candidate.

In the past Sin's political tack at any given time has been reflected to some extent in the *Chayu Sinmun* (Free Daily News) which, between 1946 and the communist invasion of June 1950, had been published in Seoul. He is publisher and nominal owner of this paper (in which he is reported to have invested 2½ million won). In 1949, perhaps as a reflection of his affiliation with the Democratic Nationalist Party, the newspaper was reported to be an "extreme rightist" publication.

Sin is said to be respected for his personal ability and his achievements in the National Assembly, but his honesty and integrity are doubted in certain circles. It is reported that the *Han'guk* elements of the Democratic Nationalist Party do not trust him, even though they have united with his party. Prime Minister Chang Myŏn (John M. Chang) once remarked to an American official that Sin is a man with "neither a conscience nor moral fortitude." Sin as R.O.K. President, in the opinion of American observers, "would be a good deal more nationalistic and less reasonable than Chang Myŏn or Hŏ Chŏng (former Minister of Social Affairs and Acting Prime Minister) but probably better than Yi Pŏmsŏk."

YI Ch'ŏlwŏn

Director of the Office of Public Information, Yi Ch'ŏlwŏn (Clarence C. Ryee) is a man of training and experience in the field of public relations but of limited capabilities. His extensive education has earned for him the respect of his associates, but he lacks the professional competency of a first-rate administrator. His administration of the Office of Public Information has for the most part been weak and vacillating, and lacking in forceful leadership. Although physically weak and unimpressive, Yi is said to affect a forceful, almost belligerent manner. Essentially conservative, he lives on a relatively thrifty scale and appears generally to come closer to living within his legal income than many other R.O.K. officials. It is reported that Yi has been a staunch follower of President Rhee primarily because, in Yi's estimation, the President represents the strong leadership needed in the administration of the government. Although Yi has professed to be the champion of the principle of freedom of the press, he is not generally regarded as having any real understanding of or belief in democratic principles. He has been described as consistently friendly toward the United States and Americans in general, and strongly anticommunist.

Born August 7, 1900 in Ch'ungch'ŏng-namdo, Yi attended and graduated from Mt. Hermon Preparatory School, Mount Hermon, Massachusetts (1922-1925), after receiving his primary and sec-

ondary education in Seoul. He later received the degrees of A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. from Columbia University in New York.

While a student at Columbia University, Yi served for nine years as secretary at the International YMCA in New York City during the 1920's and 1930's. He lived in Japan for a short period a few years prior to World War II. From 1938 to 1943 he was district manager of the American National Cash Register Co. in P'yŏngyang. During this period Yi is reported to have been arrested and jailed by the Japanese for participation in the Korean independence movement. From 1944 until the Japanese surrender he worked in China with the Korean Provisional Government. He served as director of the Department of Public Information under the American occupation of south Korea, and after the establishment of the Republic in 1948 served for a time as general secretary of the R.O.K. National Assembly. Appointed chief of the Office of Public Information in June 1949, Yi was removed from the post shortly after the outbreak of the Korean hostilities the following year when he proved incapable of handling the office effectively under the early exigencies of the conflict. However, when Helen Kim, his successor in office, resigned the post in November 1950, Yi was called back to head the OPI for lack of any other experienced person acceptable to Rhee.

YI Pömsök

YI Pömsök (also known as Lee Bum Suk), who served as the first Prime Minister and concurrently Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Korea, is a man of little imagination and mediocre intelligence, but possesses a forceful personality, great political ambitions, and an intensely nationalistic viewpoint. He has at times been a favored follower of President Syngman Rhee, and some sources indicate that they believe that Rhee secretly promised in late 1951 that he would support him as a successor. Yi has had some 25 years of diversified and active military experience fighting against the Japanese in Manchuria and North China, as well as a thorough military education in Chinese military academies, where he both studied and taught. He has an excellent command of the Chinese language, is an ardent admirer of Chiang Kai-shek, and is steeped in Chinese methods of doing things. It is reported that Yi Pömsök is not anti-American, but is baffled by democratic methods and institutions. He thinks and acts like a traditional Chinese war lord. His ambitions are subjected to the limitations imposed by the fact that he no longer holds a key government post or a broad youth following, is politically inept, and does not speak English. Like Syngman Rhee, he is uncompromisingly anticommunist and has regarded with ill-favored suspicion current United Nations attempts to work out a compromise settlement with the communists.

Yi Pömsök was born in 1899 in Seoul. His father had been a provincial governor prior to the annexation of Korea by Japan in 1910. Yi graduated from Yunnan Military Academy in China in 1919, and in that year became associated with the Korean Provisional Government, which had been organized in Shanghai. He soon embarked on an active military career in Manchuria, where he was appointed an instructor of Korean troops in military training schools and worked in close cooperation with General Kim Hwachin, who died in 1929, and General Ch'i Ch'öngch'ön, who, after 1945, became Yi's chief rival in the organization of youth groups in southern Korea. During World War II Yi served as a general officer in the Korean Independence Army, military arm of the Korean Provisional Government, and commanded one of its two field detachments against the Japanese.

Returning to Korea in June 1946, Yi was appointed an adviser to the Korean Constabulary, under the Department of Internal Security of the South Korean Interim Government. He resigned five months later after accusing the constabulary of being "pinkish"—a charge which had some basis in fact at that time. A more plausible motive for his resignation may have been to devote more time to the promotion of the Korean National Youth

movement, which was then being set up with the approval of the U.S. Army Military Government in Korea.

Yi served as chief of the Korean National Youth from 1946 to 1948. Although the corps was intended to be a civic youth organization, its development was often marked with episodes that revealed strong political undertones. Both Yi and Ch'i Ch'öngch'ön had entertained ambitions of organizing an all-encompassing youth group. While Yi was reported to have recruited members among moderate and left-wing youth, Ch'i filled the ranks of his *Taedong* Youth Corps with recruits from the extreme right wing, and intergroup terrorism was common until late 1947. The two rival leaders apparently came to some understanding in December 1947, in which month they issued a joint statement instructing their respective organizations to refrain from terroristic activities, although it was the consensus of official opinion that Ch'i's group was the more blameworthy of the two and that for the most part the National Youth was a well-disciplined organization. In early 1948, both Yi and Ch'i accepted high offices in Syngman Rhee's National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence.

In August 1948, Yi was appointed Prime Minister and concurrently Minister of National Defense of the newly created Republic of Korea after President Rhee had failed to secure approval of Yi Yunyöng, a leader of the South Korea branch of the Chosön Democratic Party, for the premiership. Under pressure from President Rhee, who possibly feared that Yi might use his youth groups to build a powerful opposition political movement, the Premier was forced to merge his National Youth into the unified Korean Youth Corps in December 1948. He was relieved as defense minister in March 1949, and replaced by Sin Sungmo as Prime Minister in April 1950. Yi served as R.O.K. ambassador to Nationalist China at T'ai-pei from December 1950 until September 1951.

Since his return from Formosa in 1951, Yi has been active in politics and has been one of the key organizers and vice chairman of Rhee's new Liberal Party. The report that Rhee has given Yi his "blessing" as Rhee's successor to the presidency is based upon the assumption that Rhee has decided not to succeed himself, an assumption that currently does not appear to be justified. It is quite possible, however, that, although Rhee made the promise ostensibly as a reward for Yi's loyal services in his behalf, it was actually for the purpose of playing Yi off against Sin Ikhüi, politically potent chairman of the National Assembly and a leader of the opposition Democratic Nationalist Party.

American sources are of the opinion that Yi is basically an opportunist who is deeply under the influence of Chiang Kai-shek and the Chinese Nationalists. He is a man of enormous physical vitality and energy, qualities which served him well as a military leader and which are now being displayed in the R.O.K. political arena. In the early 1920's he married a Korean whom he met in Siberia, where she was working as an interpreter and secretary. It is reported that Yi, in accordance with a temporary agreement with the Bolshevik forces, fought with the Red Russians against the White Russians for a period during the 1920's. There is no available information as to the present whereabouts of his wife, but apparently she did not accompany him upon his return to Korea in 1946.

YI Sungman

President of the Republic of Korea (R.O.K.) since its official creation in August 1948, 77-year-old Yi Sungman, better known as Syngman Rhee, is the dominant political figure of noncommunist Korea. His life has been spent in leading nationalist revolutionary movements aimed at the establishment of an independent Korean nation, and his present pre-eminence in southern Korean politics apparently is based upon his unequalled prestige gained as a nationalist leader, rather than upon his status as a major rightist political leader or as R.O.K. chief executive. Apart from his leadership in revolutionary activities, Rhee had had no experience in government until he was elected R.O.K. President by the National Assembly. As President of the Republic of Korea, he has kept powers of office to himself and has not delegated them to his ministers, although he is strongly influenced by his wife and by personal advisers. In terms of prestige and of leadership in the still-continuing struggle for Korean independence, Rhee has no equal. In recent years, however, he has become senile and prone to make irresponsible statements; he has been under a great strain since the communist invasion of the R.O.K. and the subsequent civil war, and has aged noticeably in recent months. Indomitably strong-willed and obstinate, Rhee has dominated the political scene to the extent that currently there does not exist in the Republic of Korea a figure of equal force.

Rhee was born on April 26, 1875 in Hwanghae-do, north Korea, the only son of a well-to-do, upper class family. His political career had its beginnings around 1894, when he joined the Independence Club, which advocated democratic reforms under the Korean monarchy. When the leader of the Independence Club was forced to leave the country in 1895, Rhee became one of the leaders of the reform movement in Korea. Several years

later he began publication of the *Independence*, Korea's first daily newspaper and the first paper wholly published by Koreans. In 1897 his activities resulted in his arrest and imprisonment by the Korean Government, and Rhee is reported to have spent several years in prison as a political suspect.

In 1904, following a general amnesty of political prisoners, Rhee was sent to the United States by his father to complete his education. During the six years between 1904-1910 spent in the United States, he received an A.B. degree from George Washington University, an A.M. degree from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. from Princeton University. While at Princeton he came to the attention of Woodrow Wilson, then president of the university, who took an interest in the young Korean and his country. Rhee returned to Korea shortly after the annexation of the country by Japan in 1910 and organized the Korean Christian Student Movement while serving as a missionary teacher for the Methodist Mission Board. During his travels in Korea, ostensibly on church business, he continued his political activities by organizing resistance to the Japanese. When the Japanese intensified their efforts to wipe out underground opposition to their rule, Rhee fled to Hawaii, where he founded the Comrades Society (*Tongji Hoe*), a nationalistic group pledged to overthrow Japanese rule in Korea and to establish an independent government.

In March 1919, following the arrest by the Japanese of many Korean nationalists, a group of 33 rebels met secretly in Seoul and signed a "Declaration of Korean Independence." On April 23, 1919 certain members of this group proclaimed the existence of a "Korean Republic" headed by a "Korean Provisional Government" (KPG), and appointed a "cabinet" as the chief executive organ of the KPG. Rhee was appointed President of the "Republic" and leader of the KPG cabinet. Late in 1919 or in early 1920 Rhee joined the representatives of the KPG in Shanghai. The KPG fought unsuccessfully for years to obtain recognition for itself, particularly from the United States. It was also beset by bitter factional rivalries, and as a result gradually declined in power and influence after 1924. In order to facilitate this striving for recognition, Rhee established the Korean Commission in Washington "to serve as a diplomatic agency of the exiled Korean Republic." He was regularly reelected President of the Korean Provisional Government, which had undergone a series of reorganizations between 1924 and 1940, until 1941, when he was replaced by Kim Ku, another prominent Korean independence leader whose headquarters were in China. Rhee, as chairman of the Korean Commission, continued to represent

the KPG in Washington until his return to Korea in October 1945 under the sponsorship of the U.S. Army Military Government in Korea.

Immediately upon his return Rhee became the outstanding personality in rightist political circles in southern Korea. By early 1946 he had organized the National Society for Acceleration of Korean Independence (NSAKI), and by means of it gained predominance over other conservative political groups, and expanded it by 1947 to the largest organization in southern Korea. When the Republic of Korea was established in 1948, the National Assembly by a vote of 180 to 16 elected him the nation's first president for a four-year term.

Although in his early career Rhee was active for a time in a movement to reform the Yi dynasty, the main direction of his political leadership—to which he has devoted over forty years—has been the establishment of an independent Korean nation. His activities, prior to 1948, were directed against the powers standing in the way of this endeavor. Until 1945, he was a principal leader in the Korean nationalist movement against Japanese colonial rule. For a time after that, he led the anti-trusteeship movement in southern Korea and opposed both the United States and Soviet Russia on this issue. He bitterly fought any prolongation of American military government in southern Korea. Overlapping these efforts was his crusade against communism. Beginning with his fight against the Japanese, this anticommunist factor later became a major consideration in his activities between the liberation of Korea from Japan and the establishment of the Republic of Korea. As chief executive of the Republic, Rhee has continued this crusade by vigorously combating the combined forces of internal subversive activity and, since June 1950, direct aggression by the northern communist regime.

Possessor of a magnetic personality and great powers of persuasion, he has enormous influence over his cabinet members, whom he appoints and removes at will. They always defer to him in his presence and fear to make decisions on their own in his absence. Although opposition members of the National Assembly may bitterly criticize him behind his back and oppose his policies, they too generally submit to him in his presence. Contemptuous for the most part of the prerogatives of both his cabinet and the National Assembly, he at times executes his official duties in an arbitrary and high-handed manner, and has resorted to anti-democratic methods to effectuate his program and eliminate opposition to his policies. American sources report that Rhee shows almost a total lack of political bargaining instincts, that he has no skill in employing parliamentary tactics to get his

policies accepted by the National Assembly, and that he prefers to push and bluster his program through the legislature and risk outright rejection of his plans, which often happens, rather than make concessions to the opposition groups, which he despises. Rhee has not hesitated to use such totalitarian tactics as stringent censorship of radio and press, police terrorism, and the use of extra-governmental agencies such as youth corps and armed "patriotic" societies to terrorize and destroy noncommunist opposition groups and parties in the Republic. Such tactics have recently been employed by his followers to reduce the power and influence of the opposition Democratic Nationalist Party. Rhee evidently has no understanding of, or patience with, the basic political tenet of Western society that nonsubversive opposition is an essential and inevitable component of all democratic governments.

In the field of foreign relations he maintains an essentially anti-Japanese viewpoint, based upon his continuing fear and suspicion of Japan, although in domestic matters he has tolerated collaborators with Japan in his cabinets and in key positions in his political organizations. His fear and hatred of Soviet Russia and her satellites are absolute and uncompromising; he regards the decision of the United Nations to hold "cease-fire" talks with the Chinese and north Korean communists as a "monstrous mistake" by the United States and a "stupid betrayal" of the democratic forces fighting against communism which will ultimately lead to the destruction of the Republic of Korea and the conquest of the entire Korean peninsula by the communists.

In 1934 Rhee married an Austrian, Francesca Donner, whom he met in Geneva while working on behalf of Korean independence at the League of Nations. It is reported that most Koreans fervently dislike and distrust Mme. Rhee, who exercises considerable influence on her husband. His only son, by an earlier marriage, died in 1915.

YI Yunyŏng

An outstanding Methodist churchman for many years in northern Korea, Yi Yunyŏng has been a close associate of President Rhee since he fled to south Korea in January 1946. He is relatively a newcomer in politics, and is significant primarily as the standard-bearer for Cho Mansik and his Chosŏn Democratic Party (CDP). At present Yi, as CDP vice president, is leader of the south Korea branch of the party and nominal head of the CDP while Cho remains a prisoner of the communists in northern Korea. Former Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Yi was twice nominated by the President for the premiership (in July 1948 and April 1950) and in both cases was

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rejected by the National Assembly. Currently, he is serving as Acting Prime Minister pending the National Assembly's confirmation of Chang T'aek-sang who was appointed Prime Minister on April 24, 1952. This appointment as interim prime minister has once again aroused the hostility of the National Assembly against Yi. He is looked upon in Korean church circles as an able churchman and a man of integrity and sound judgment. He is not highly regarded, however, as a public administrator, and has filled several cabinet posts in an undistinguished manner. Although Yi appeared to be generally capable, he proved to be weak in terms of specialized training and experience.

Born in 1889 in Yŏngbyŏn, P'yŏngan-pukto, and a graduate of Songsil Academy in P'yŏngyang and Seoul Methodist Theological Seminary, Yi served as chairman of the P'yŏngyang Christian Association until January 1946. While teaching and preaching in northern Korea for many years prior to the surrender, he is reported to have been imprisoned for two years during this period for participation in the Korean independence movement. At the end of World War II, he assisted Chŏ in organizing the Chosŏn Democratic Party, dominant conservative political party in the north immediately following the surrender. When the communists "reorganized" the party in January 1946, Yi and many other party leaders fled below the 38th parallel, although Cho was seized and held in "protective custody." In March 1948, Yi was elected one of five vice chairmen of Rhee's National Society, and the following May was elected to the R.O.K. National Assembly. He was R.O.K. Minister of Social Affairs from December 1948 until November 1950. From the latter date until his recent appointment as acting Prime Minister he served as Minister-without-Portfolio.

YIM Pyŏngchik

Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea and currently permanent observer and special representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, Yim Pyŏngchik (also known as Ben C. Limb), is often referred to as President Rhee's *alter ego*. Politically, he is completely identified with Rhee, and has no political following in his own right. He is very personable and suave, with an urbane manner, and is generally liked by most Americans. As Foreign Minister from January 1949 until April 1951, however, Yim displayed little of the tact, finesse, and judgment essential to that position, and his ungoverned emotional outbursts strained his government's relations with the United States and the United Nations Commission on Korea and at times caused embarrassment to Rhee. Occasionally, he has expressed resentment toward Americans as a result of racial discrimina-

tions suffered during his long residence in the United States. Since Yim's capabilities are somewhat limited, and he is emotionally unstable, his appointment as Foreign Minister was regarded primarily as a reward for long and faithful service to the cause of Rhee. Yim is regarded by some factions in Korea as an outsider and a foreigner because of his long residence in the United States, which enabled him to escape the hardships endured by many other Koreans who stayed in the country or lived in China during the critical years prior to and during World War II.

He was born October 26, 1893 in Seoul, and is the son of a wealthy landowner and former provincial governor under the Yi dynasty (prior to the annexation of Korea by Japan in 1910). After completing his elementary education in Seoul, Yim was sent to the United States, where he was graduated from Mt. Hermon Preparatory School, Mt. Hermon, Massachusetts, and Ohio State University (A.B., 1919). He accompanied Rhee to Shanghai in 1919, and served as his personal secretary. In 1921, Yim returned to the United States, where he lived until early 1949, when he returned to Korea to become Foreign Minister. During his long residence in the United States he was engaged in private business, and after 1942 served with Rhee's Korean Commission in Washington as "military attache," with the assumed rank of colonel. After Rhee's departure for Korea in 1945, Yim served as acting chairman of the Korean Commission until 1947. During this period, he was also Rhee's unofficial representative to the United Nations. Since April 1951, Yim has been associated with the United Nations as R.O.K. observer and special representative of President Rhee.

Yim has anglicized his name, and is generally known as Ben C. Limb. He speaks English with a slight accent.

YŎ Unhŏng

Yŏ Unhŏng, also known as Lyuh Woon Hŏng, is the younger brother of Yŏ Unhyŏng (Lyuh Woon Hyŏng), noted Korean leftist leader who was assassinated in July 1947. He resigned from his brother's People's Party in 1946 because of its alleged communist domination and in opposition to its support of trusteeship, and organized the now defunct Social Democratic Party, which was regarded as "moderately leftist" but had little influence. Yŏ is considered genuinely pro-American, and has cooperated with the American authorities in Korea. He was closely associated with the late Kim Kyusik, liberal Korean statesman, and in 1947 and 1948 headed the organization bureau and general affairs department of Kim's National Independence Federation. He was elected to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea in May 1950, and

has been the sponsor in that body of resolutions friendly toward the United States. He has little political influence at the present time.

Born in 1889, Yō was educated in Korea and the United States, where he attended the University of Southern California. Prior to World War II he taught English at Posong College, Seoul, and for several years was manager of the Seoul branch of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. He entered politics following the Japanese surrender in 1945 as an official of his brother's People's Party, but left that party in 1946 to organize and lead the rather impotent Social Democratic Party. He was appointed to the Korean Interim Legislative Assembly in December 1946, and the following year entered the journalistic field as president and chief editor of *Min Po* (People's News), organ of the Social Democratic Party. His party became affiliated with Kim Kyusik's National Independence Federation in 1947, and Yō was its representative at the North-South Joint Political Conference, held in P'yōngyang in April 1948. He returned from the conference with mixed feelings toward the northern communist regime. At this period he proposed to the American occupation authorities that they appoint Kim Kyusik president of south Korea, stating that it was better to appoint a "strong man" to rule than to hold an election. In November 1948, following his arrest on suspicion of plotting against the Rhee administration, Yō resigned from the chairmanship of the Social Democratic Party. Recent reports, however, indicate that he has changed his allegiance and is now a supporter of Rhee.

YUN Ch'iyōng

Yun Ch'iyōng, an intimate associate and former personal secretary to Syngman Rhee, was active between the surrender of Japan in 1945 and the creation of the Republic of Korea in 1948 chiefly as a fund-raiser for Rhee and his supporters. Since 1948, following a short period as R.O.K. Minister of Home Affairs during the latter half of that year, he has been an influential member of the National Assembly and the leader of the Korean (*Taehan*) Nationalist Party. American sources describe Yun as keen-minded and intelligent, but lacking in courage and fortitude and involved during World War II in questionable commercial enterprises. His political future and influence were greatly enhanced by his reelection to the National Assembly in the February 5, 1952 by-elections.

Yun was born in 1897 in Seoul, and is a relative of the late Baron Yun Ch'ihō, wealthy and prominent Korean Christian who was a member of the Japanese House of Peers. He graduated from Waseda University, Tokyo, and did postgraduate work at Columbia University and the University of

Hawaii. While in Hawaii he was chief editor of the magazine *Pacific* and also treasurer of the Korean Residents Association. During his stay in the United States he became closely associated with Rhee while serving as correspondent for the *Tong-A Ilbo* (Oriental Daily News), a prominent Seoul newspaper now printed in Pusan. Upon his return to Korea in 1936 he became editor of the publication.

During World War II Yun is reported to have participated actively in Japanese sponsored commercial and war support enterprises. After the Japanese surrender he served for a period as private secretary to Rhee, and was an influential leader of the Korean (*Han'guk*) Democratic Party between 1946-1948. After being elected to the National Assembly in May 1948, Yun was named Minister of Home Affairs by President Rhee in August of that year. He held the post until December 1948, when his resignation was forced by the National Assembly following his involvement in the arrest of Yu Chinsan, leader of a rightist youth group, in the home of Chōn Chinha, then R.O.K. Minister of Social Affairs. In July 1949, he was elected vice speaker of the National Assembly, but was defeated for reelection to that body in the May 1950 elections. In August 1950, Yun was appointed minister to France, a post he never assumed. He spent several months in New York but never got to Paris, and returned to Korea in 1951.

Although still chairman of the practically defunct Korean (*Taehan*) Nationalist Party, his success in the February 1952 National Assembly by-elections was made possible by the support of Rhee's Liberal Party. His victory was unusually significant, as his opponent was Cho Pyōngok, influential leader of the powerful, opposition Democratic Nationalist Party. In the election the Rhee-backed candidates made a clean sweep, winning seven out of eight seats.

Yun's political reputation in Korea is none too savory. He was accused of using "strong-arm" methods as Home Minister and serving as Rhee's "hatchet-man," and is a close associate of politicians of doubtful character such as Louise Yim, "Montana" Chang (Chang Sōkyun), newly appointed Minister of Home Affairs, former Home Minister Paek Songuk, and Yi Pōmsōk. (Chang Sōkyun is married to a daughter of Brigadier General Yun Ch'iwang, surgeon general of the R.O.K. Army and a cousin of Yun.) Also, his activities as Home Minister in connection with the Yu Chinsan Affair left a bad impression in the minds of the Korean people. Yun's influence in R.O.K. affairs will depend primarily on two factors: first, the fortunes of Rhee and his supporters in R.O.K. politics, and second, the state of Yun's health, which is said to be poor.



CH'OE YŎNGGŪN. APPROX. 1948.



CHŎNG CH'UN'TAEK. APPROX. 1948.



CHU YŎNGHA. 1949.



HŎ CHŎNGSUK. 1950.



HONG MYŎNGHUI. APPROX. 1948.



KANG YANGUK. APPROX. 1948.



KIM ILSŎNG. 1951.



KIM TALHYŎN. APPROX. 1948.



KIM TUBONG. APPROX. 1948.

File 59-1



KIM WŒNBONG. APPROX. 1948.



NAM IL. 1951.



PAK CHŒNGAE. 1951.



PAK HŒNYŒNG. 1949.



PAK ILU. APPROX. 1948.



PAK MUNKYU. APPROX. 1948.



YI YŒNG. APPROX. 1948.



AN CHAEHONG. 1945.



AN HOSANG



CHANG MYON (JOHN M. CHANG). 1949



CHANG TAEKSANG. 1951.



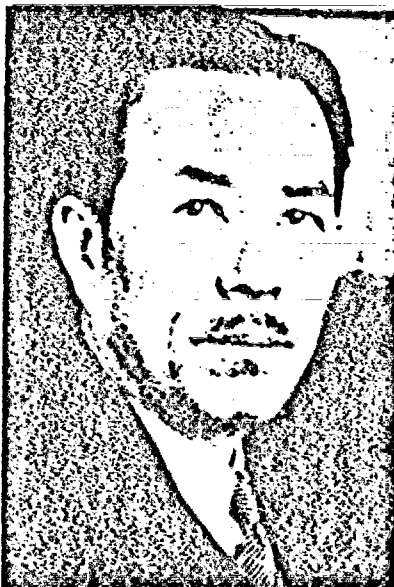
CH'I CH'ONGCH'ON. 1952.



CHO PYONGOK. 1947.



KIM KYUSIK. 1950.



KIM T'AESON. 1952.



SIN IKHŪI. 1951.

YI CH'ŬLWŎN (CLARENCE C. RYEE). 1952.



YI PŎMSŎK. 1949.

YI SŪNGMAN (SYNGMAN RHEE). 1952.

YI YUNYŎNG. 1952.



YIM PYŎNGCHIK (BEN C. LIMB). 1950.

YUN CH'İYŎNG